

Freed hostage flies to U.S.

FRANKFURT, Germany (R) — Freed American hostage Jesse Turner left Germany for the United States Friday, four days after being freed by kidnappers who had held him in Lebanon for nearly five years. Mr. Turner, 44, flew from Frankfurt on a civil airliner bound for Chicago and Denver. He was accompanied by his Lebanese wife Badr and four-year-old daughter Joanne, who was born shortly after he was seized in January 1987. Mr. Turner's stay at a U.S. military hospital in Wiesbaden was shorter than that of other American hostages freed in Lebanon in recent years. Officials at the hospital said they had been surprised at his sudden decision to leave. It was not clear whether his early departure and use of a civilian rather than government plane were connected with a row between his stepfather and the hospital. His stepfather, Eugene Romeburg, was barred from the hospital Thursday for videotaping the family's reunion and passing the tape to a television network, which broadcast it in the United States. Mr. Romeburg said on Friday he felt the U.S. reprimand had been an injustice.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Arabiyyat returns from Tehran

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyyat returned to Amman Friday after taking part in an Iranian-sponsored conference on Palestine which concluded in Tehran Tuesday. Dr. Arabiyyat was accompanied by a Jordanian parliamentary delegation which comprised deputies Abdul Majid Shreideh and Mohammad Al Haj. The conference, in which ministers and parliamentarians from 60 countries participated, called for forming a joint force named Al Quds (Jerusalem) army to liberate all Palestine. Dr. Arabiyyat said, in a statement at the airport that the conference recommended collecting donations to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people. The Arab Parliamentary Union, he said, held a meeting on the sidelines of the conference to unify their stands. "Heads of the Islamic parliamentary delegation urged participants in the conference to support Iraq and lift the embargo imposed on it since Aug. 1990," he said.

Bush: U.S. will be an active partner in Madrid

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush said Friday that the United States will be a "committed and active partner" in the Middle East peace conference that opens next week.

Mr. Bush also said his talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev before the conference will cover any subject the Soviet leader wants to bring up.

The U.S. president characterized the Madrid talks as a first step towards peace in a troubled part of the world.

"The United States cannot make peace, only the parties themselves can do that," the president told a news conference at the White House.

The president said he would meet privately with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir while in Madrid for the ceremonial opening of the peace conference.

The meeting expands Mr. Bush's role beyond a ceremonial opening speech.

The private session with Mr. Gorbachev, who is attending as co-host, will be "open-ended" covering subjects such as nuclear weapons and the Soviet economy — "anything that he's interested in," Mr. Bush said.

It will be their first meeting since the collapse of a hardline communist coup against Mr. Gorbachev in August, and since the two leaders announced steps to cut their nuclear arsenals.

Mr. Bush said he would use the occasion to present another detailed arms initiative.

Mr. Bush turned aside questions on the specifics of the peace talks.

But he said, "we are trying to be a catalyst." His comments suggested he may have private suggestions for Mr. Shamir about shaping a settlement with the Arabs.

Mr. Bush commended the statesmanship of all countries that agreed to attend the peace conference, and said "sitting down together is the beginning of understanding."

Mr. Bush stressed the "historic nature" of the conference, the first in the region since a failed attempt in 1973. He noted that the Middle East has been "characterized by dangerous and tragic conflicts for decades."

Even as he expressed his hopes for the outcome of the Madrid talks, Mr. Bush brushed aside a question about whether progress was possible without Israel giving up territory it took in 1967.

Arafat will stay out of talks, will accept outcome

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Friday that the Palestinian delegation to the Mideast talks would negotiate without his help, and he promised to abide by the conference's outcome.

"Anything these Palestinian leaders in this conference will accept, I will accept," he said in a television interview.

Mr. Arafat appeared on a large television screen in a studio as he spoke by satellite from Tunis, Tunisia, to interviewers Phil Donahue and Vladimir Pozner, a Soviet political commentator. Several callers posed questions, but Mr. Arafat appeared to have difficulty hearing much of what was said in the studio.

The Palestinians are going to the conference in a joint delegation with Jordan, and will be advised by a 14-member committee. The talks are scheduled to start Wednesday in Madrid, Spain.

A major issue of conflict in convening the talks was the background of Palestinian negotiators. Israel ruled out any from outside the occupied territories or anyone with strong ties to the PLO.

A sign of the issue's explosiveness came Friday, when Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman said Israel would consider pulling out of the talks if the

Jordan finalises delegation; Palestinian team arrives

Diplomats and experts expected to dominate Jordan's negotiation team

By Neimeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government was completing work last night on the names of the Jordanian side to the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, and a final list is expected to be announced today. Career diplomats and technical experts are expected to dominate the Jordanian team, which will meet today with their Palestinian counterparts to get to know each other and coordinate strategy on the historic Middle East peace talks that opens in Madrid on Wednesday.

Informal sources confirmed the names of 12 of the Jordanian delegates but said that the list was not yet finalised by Friday evening. The sources also confirmed that Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber will head the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and that Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, a former minister and advisor to His Majesty the King, will head the Jordanian team to bilateral talks with the Israelis.

The 12 confirmed delegates

are: Ambassador Awaad Khalidi (France), Ambassador Mohammed Udwan (the Soviet Union), Ambassador Talal Satah Al Hassan (Belgium) and the European Community, Ambassador-designate Fuad Ayyoub (the United Kingdom), Armed Forces General Abdul Hafez Mar'ee, Vice-President of the University of Jordan Adnan Al Bakhit, Foreign Ministry official and advisor to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Aoun Khassawneh, Secretary General of the Ministry of Municipalities and former Jordan Valley Authority Director-General Mohammad Bani Hani, former Governor of Jerusalem Anwar Al Khatib and Harvard University professor Walid Al Khalidi, who is also an international expert on Palestinian affairs.

The inclusion of Mr. Khatib and Prof. Khalidi is seen as an effort to fulfill the criteria set by the Palestine National Council (PNC) last month in which the Palestinian parliament-in-exile demanded that Palestinians from Jerusalem and in the diaspora be

represented in the delegation.

The delegation, described by officials as a "team of government officials and experts," will maintain contact with Prime Minister Taher Masri as a reference point with the cabinet, which is constitutionally required to approve the agreements resulting from negotiations.

The cabinet had met Thursday to approve an initial list of delegates but the final decision was postponed until today when the cabinet is expected to meet again and approve the final list of names.

The cabinet, a coalition of several distinct groups espousing different ideologies and political leanings and technocrats, has endorsed Jordanian participation in the conference, but individual ministers are emphasizing that they remain the "reference body" for the delegation on points of development in negotiations. This was one of the key issues discussed during a cabinet session Thursday, sources told the Jordan Times.

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Palestinian delegates to the Madrid conference are received by Jordanian officials and others upon their arrival on the eastern side of the King Hussein Bridge early Friday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alban)

Palestinian team suggests 'confidence-building' steps

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Palestinian delegation and its newly-expanded steering committee arrived in Amman Friday to further coordinate their position with the Jordanian side before travelling to Madrid on Monday as a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to attend the opening of the Middle East peace conference on Wednesday.

The delegation, headed by prominent nationalist and Gaza physician Haidar Abdul Shafi, and its steering committee headed by Faisal Husseini, were met by Jordanian and Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials at the King Hussein Bridge across the Jordan River.

The steering committee late on

Thursday was expanded from seven to 14 people who include representatives from refugee camps and pro-PLO factions.

Hanan Ashrawi from the steering committee, who could not attend direct negotiations because she has an identity card from Jerusalem, told reporters upon arrival at the Plaza Hotel lobby that the talks with Jordanian officials and the Palestinian delegation, whose names had not yet been announced, would focus on further coordination before the U.S.-Soviet sponsored Madrid conference starts on Wednesday.

"The talks will be to coordinate and work out the logistics and procedural issues," said Dr. Ashrawi, a professor of English literature at Bir Zeeb University near Ramallah.

Mr. Husseini said that the schedule of meetings with the Jordanian side was not yet known but a series of

Masri meets PLO and occupied territories teams; coordination going well

By Lamis K. Andouli
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Taher Masri met on Friday with Senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials and the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to coordinate stands prior to the Madrid Middle East peace conference this week.

The joint delegation was scheduled to start a two-day meeting to work out a mechanism for the work of the delegation at Madrid.

Since the PLO approved the Palestinian delegation last week Jordanian-Palestinian coordination has been conducted on two interrelated and overlapping levels: Coordination between the PLO and Jordan, which outlines the framework of this coordination; and talks between

Jordanian officials and members of the Palestinian delegation from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Both Jordan and the PLO have so far been cautious not to provide Israel, which says it refuses to talk with personalities linked with the PLO, with the opportunity to torpedo the process.

The resulting process is that no formal meetings between PLO officials and the Palestinian delegates are confirmed.

The PLO delegation, headed by PLO Foreign Minister Farouk Qadumi, and the Palestinian team which crossed the bridge on Friday, all staying at the Plaza Hotel.

Mr. Masri went to the Plaza Friday evening and met with both the PLO delegation led by Mr. Qadumi and the Palestinian negotiating

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Israel names hardline team, threatens boycott

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel named a hardline team on Friday to Middle East peace talks and threatened to walk out if a Palestinian who declared his negotiating team represented the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) attended.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who pushed aside his Foreign Minister David Levy to take

charge of the team, picked a 14-member team dominated by hawks.

It did not include Mr. Levy whose aides say will now challenge Mr. Shamir for the Likud party leadership.

Yossi Alkimer, a Shamir aide, said the prime minister had wanted a member of the opposition Labour Party — Edna Solomon — on the team.

Labour, he said, instead offered Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, a retired general and one-time coordinator of the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mr. Shamir, a vehement opponent of earlier U.S. attempts to end the 43-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict, ditched Mr. Levy Wednesday.

The snub fuelled rumours of a leadership battle within Likud, but Mr. Shamir's aides have sought to calm speculation of any threat to the 76-year-old prime minister. Mr. Levy has kept silent but his officials and his brother have said he would challenge Mr. Shamir.

Mr. Shamir added fire to the dispute Friday by naming Deputy

Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, a rival of Mr. Levy, as one of the delegates to Madrid. Mr. Netanyahu gained some fame in the United States during the Gulf war as spokesman for Israel.

Also included were such leading lawmakers from Mr. Shamir's Likud bloc as Sarah Doron and Uzi Landau, as well as several career diplomats including Israel's ambassador to the United States, Zalman Shoval.

The list was announced by Mr. Shamir's spokesman, Ehud Gol, who said an advisory committee would be named later.

Two of those named in the prime minister's team, Yossi Ben Aharon, director general of Mr. Shamir's office, and cabinet secretary Elaykin Rubinstein, are expected to draw the toughest jobs.

Mr. Ben Aharon, who many believe is more hardline than Mr. Shamir, is expected to head bilateral talks with Syria.

Mr. Rubinstein is likely to have drawn leadership of bilateral negotiations with the Jordanian-Palestinian team.

The Palestinians are sending a 14-member advisory committee along with the 14 negotiators who will be part of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

The other members of the Israeli delegation are:

(Continued from page 2)

See page 2 for profiles of the Israeli delegates.

Damascus meeting agrees on united stand in Madrid

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Arab leaders have forged a common stance for next week's Middle East peace conference at a meeting of their foreign ministers here.

Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and mainstream members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation hammered out a common negotiating position to bring to the Madrid meeting. Saudi Arabia and Morocco, who will attend as observers, backed the decisions by the front-line Arab states bordering Israel.

In the meeting in Damascus, the front-line participants agreed not to reach separate peace accords with Israel, demanded a halt to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and insisted that Israel negotiate on the status

of Jerusalem.

One of the Arab sources in Damascus, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the participants at the meeting differed widely on some points, but after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's decision to lead the Israeli delegation they felt their best stand would be "total harmony."

"The Arab states want a 'complete Israeli withdrawal' from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, an 'immediate freeze' on the construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, and 'realisation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people' who seek an independent homeland."

Palestinian officials said Friday in Amman the Arab parties to the

peace talks agree that secondary issues such as water rights will not be tackled until Israel agrees to discuss withdrawing from the occupied Arab lands.

Multilateral talks between Israel and the Arabs are due to take place on issues including arms control and water rights following the Madrid conference. Bilateral talks are due to begin four days later.

West Bank Palestinian leader Hanan Ashrawi said in Amman that Palestinian officials pledged at the two-day meeting in Damascus not to sign separate bilateral treaties with Israel without progress on the Palestinian problem.

"There will not be any single treaties between any single Arab country and Israel," Dr. Ashrawi told reporters in Amman.

Destruction of Iraqi arms may take until 1993

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraq's chemical weapons arsenal is so vast, dangerous and unwieldy that U.N. teams will not be able to finish destroying it until at least 1993, a top U.N. official said.

"The ... munitions that are filled with nerve agents and mustard gas and so on, as you can imagine, those are extremely dangerous to handle," said Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. special commission set up to destroy Iraq's chemical arsenal and other mass destruction weapons.

Disposing of the munitions poses "a great risk," Mr. Ekeus said.

A team of about 50 U.N. special commission inspectors is currently surveying the main Iraqi chemical weapons site at the Muthana military base outside of Baghdad. Their mission is due to end in early November.

The munitions will be destroyed on site at Muthana, and chemical weapons found elsewhere in Iraq are being transported there.

The inspectors are checking all of the many buildings on the site because Baghdad has consistently understated its weapons programmes in its declarations to the United Nations.

In April, Iraq declared it had about 12,000 chemical bombs, shells and missiles, but inspectors found about 46,000 loaded weapons, along with 79,000 unfilled munitions, over 600 tons of chemical warfare agents and 3,000 tons of precursor chemicals.

"We will work well into 1993 on the destruction of chemicals; that will be a prolonged element," Mr. Ekeus told reporters.

"We have now 125,000 items to take care of, which is an enormous amount."

Iraq declared after the Gulf war that it had 52 Scud or modified Scud missiles, and 30 chemical weapon warheads for them.

Dughmi's resignation expected to end differences in cabinet over labour policies

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The resignation of Abdul Karim Dughmi as labour minister was accepted Thursday, ending differences in the council of ministers spanning several months over labour policies and other issues concerning government work.

The resignation was not a spur-of-the-moment decision but the culmination of differences to approach among members of the cabinet of Prime Minister Taher Masri and had a lot to do with the basic concept of "Jordanisation" of the Kingdom's workforce, according to informed sources and analysts.

A Royal Decree was issued Thursday accepting Mr. Dughmi's resignation and appointing Qassem Obaidat, undersecretary of state for prime ministry affairs, as acting



Abdul Karim Dughmi

labour minister. Dr. Obaidat had served as labour minister under Prime Minister Mudar Badran from December 1989 to January 1991.

Reports of Mr. Dughmi's departure from the cabinet emerged Wednesday, when the minister sent word that he had resigned his job effective Oct. 13, but it was not then clear whether his resignation

would be accepted by King Hussein, following a recommendation from the prime minister, who was said to have involved in a last-ditch effort to convince the deputy from the northern constituency of Mafray to stay.

"Prime Minister Masri himself and several cabinet colleagues tried in vain to talk Mr. Dughmi out of resigning," said a cabinet source. "They gave up after Mr. Dughmi refused to budge from his position," added the source, who, like most others who spoke to the Jordan Times on the issue, preferred anonymity.

Accounts of the reasons of the resignation of Mr. Dughmi vary, but a consensus among various sources is that it had little to do with politics related to Jordan's participation in the peace process.

Mr. Dughmi, a lawyer by profession, joined the gov-



Qassem Obaidat

ernment as minister of municipal affairs and the environment in December 1989 when Mr. Badran formed his government after the parliamentary elections in November of that year. He was appointed minister of labour in the cabinet reshuffle of January 1991, and retained the portfolio in the Masri cabinet, which was sworn in on June

19, 1991.

According to cabinet sources, Mr. Dughmi had submitted his resignation several times in the past, including during his tenure in the Badran cabinet, after sharp differences arose between him and other ministers over labour policies and other issues involving government policies.

"It was mostly a question of chemistries not mixing," commented a cabinet member. "Mr. Dughmi had his own way of doing things and some of his colleagues did not see eye-to-eye with him, and the differences gradually grew to an irreconcilable rift," said the source. "Mr. Dughmi had submitted his resignation at least six times in the past, but everytime he was dissuaded."

Mr. Dughmi, who lives in

(Continued on page 7)

Turks renew raids against Kurds in northern Iraq

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish warplanes and helicopters attacked Kurdish guerrilla bases in northern Iraq Friday for the second time this month, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

The bases were suspected to be run by guerrillas of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), a group fighting for independence in southeastern Turkey since 1984. The area is home to about half of Turkey's 12 million Kurds.

"Our forces are hitting and returning. The operation is along the border and a few kilometres inside Iraq," the news agency quoted General Dogan Gures, chief of the Turkish general staff, as saying.

It reported that Turkish jets took off from an air base at Diyarbakir at 4 a.m. (0200 GMT) and hit their targets. After that, it said, "large numbers" of helicopters took off from Hakkari, 550 kilometres to the east, with troops at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT) and returned an hour later.

At 10.30 a.m. (0830 GMT), a second wave of jets took off and headed for Iraq, the agency said.

The new Turkish military operation followed the arrival in southeastern Turkey on Thursday of Gen. Gures and other top military commanders.

The raids appeared to be mounted in response to Kurdish rebel attacks Thursday on army outposts in the villages of Cayirli, Erisli and Cinarli near the border town of Kukur in Hakkari province, Anatolia said. The night before, rebels ambushed an army patrol near the border town of Silopi, killing five soldiers and attacking an express train, killing one passenger.

Anatolia said at least 30 people were wounded in Friday's raids, including soldiers and civilians.

Siamand Banaa, the Ankara representative of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (KDP), a leading Iraqi Kurdish opposition movement, said he was told by Turkish officials that the raid had been mounted to capture about 400 PKK guerrillas who reportedly staged the recent raids.

Serchil Kazaz, another Kurdish spokesman representing the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) here, said he had received no information so far from Kurdish sources as to the targets and possible casualties.

But Mr. Banaa voiced fears about possible new civilian victims.

"Why is it always us who is suffering everytime?" he lamented in a telephone interview with the Associated Press.

Turkey staged raids in northern Iraq on Aug. 5 and Oct. 11 after attacks by Turkish Kurdish guerrillas on border posts left 21 soldiers dead. Iraq condemned the attacks.

Turkey, dismissing protests from Iraq, Iraqi Kurdish groups in loose control of northern Iraq, and its NATO ally Germany, said last week it would mount further raids if necessary.

More than 3,300 people have been killed in the southeast since 1984 when the PKK began fighting for an independent state.

The cross-border thrust followed Sunday's general election which made Suleyman Demirel's True Path Party the biggest faction in parliament, but failed to give him a clear majority.

Two earlier Turkish incursions into Iraq were sparked by PKK

raids that killed nine soldiers in a gendarmerie post on Aug. 4 and 11 soldiers on border patrol on Oct. 11.

Ankara says the PKK is exploiting a power vacuum in northern Iraq created when allied troops forced the Iraqi army to move south in April to let half a million Kurdish refugees go home.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, led by Jalal Talabani, and the Kurdish Democratic Party of Masoud Barzani have complained that Turkish raids have killed and injured Kurdish civilians. Turkey has denied the charges.

Iraq twice protested to the United Nations after the second raid, accusing the Turks of using napalm on civilians.

Ankara dismissed the complaints as unacceptable, saying it was determined to wipe out PKK bases in northern Iraq.

Mr. Demirel, weighing coalition options before the newly-elected parliament convenes next week, has pledged to keep up the fight against the PKK. He won 178 seats in the 450-member assembly.

Mr. Talabani was due to visit Ankara Saturday before returning to northern Iraq after a lengthy foreign tour.

His spokesman Qazzaz said he would meet the U.S. charge d'affaires and the British, German and Japanese envoys. He could not say which Turkish officials he would meet.

Previously President Turgut Ozal's spokesman Kaya Toperi had handled contacts with Iraqi Kurdish leaders, but Mr. Demirel has sworn to force Mr. Ozal to keep out of diplomacy in future.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

King Hassan picks Jew as adviser

RABAT (R) — King Hassan has appointed Andre Azoulay, a Moroccan Jew, as his economic and financial adviser, palace sources said Friday. He is the second Jew to be appointed to high office since independence in 1956. French-educated Azoulay, 50, founded the defunct economic daily Maroc Informations in Casablanca and later became a senior executive of the French bank Paribas. In 1979 he founded the Identity and Dialogue Association in France to promote understanding between Israel and the Palestinians. He was made a member of the Legion of Honour by former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard in 1981 for his work as vice-president of the International Centre For Peace in the Middle East. Born in the coastal town of Essaouira south of Casablanca, Mr. Azoulay is a member of a distinguished Moroccan Jewish family. Leon Benzaquen, a Moroccan Jew, was minister of posts in the first independent government for two years at a time when the Moroccan Jewish community numbered 275,000. The community has since diminished to about 8,000 after mass migrations to Israel.

Two Sudanese accidentally killed

NAIROBI (AP) — Two Sudanese men were killed by bags of food dropped to an estimated 100,000 stranded refugees near the southern Sudanese town of Pochala, the Red Cross said Friday. The aidrop was suspended temporarily pending further investigation of the Thursday accident, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said in a statement. The two men, both in their 40s, were killed when part of a food load dropped from a C-130 Hercules cargo plane fell outside the designated drop zone, the ICRC said. Hundreds of people gather daily around Pochala's small, dirt airstrip awaiting the food's arrival. The needy in Pochala are Sudanese who returned from Ethiopia in May when fighting that toppled that country's government threatened their refugee camps. They walked several days, fording rivers, to reach Sudan's eastern border where they were marooned by vast swamps which cover much of the region during its annual rainy season. The rainy season is not expected to end until December, leaving the returnees dependent for their food on the Red Cross, which has delivered 2,500 tonnes to them since July. The ICRC said it aimed to use the aidrop to deliver 60 per cent of the 3,800 tonnes of food needed in Pochala until the end of the year. The rest will be brought in on small planes capable of landing on the rudimentary airstrip, the ICRC said.

Ethiopia, Sudan sign cooperation agreement

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — Ethiopia and Sudan have signed an agreement of cooperation and friendship ending years of acrimonious charges of interference in each others' affairs. The agreement was signed Thursday by the heads of state of the two countries at the end of a two-day state visit to Ethiopia by Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Ali Bashir, Sudan's military leader. Gen. Bashir's was the first official visit by a head of state since former President Mengistu Haile Mariam was overthrown in May by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front. Under Colonel Mengistu, relations between the two East African neighbours were strained by their support for each others' insurgencies. After Mr. Mengistu's ouster, Ethiopia's rebels no longer needed refuge in Sudan and after seizing power they evicted Sudanese insurgents from Ethiopian territory. In a series of speeches during his visit, Gen. Bashir repeatedly said that a new era of peace and stability in the region was ushered in with Col. Mengistu's overthrow.

34 wells remain to be capped in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Firefighters say they have capped all but 34 of a total of 732 oil wells set alight or damaged in the Gulf war, in February. A string of international teams fighting the roaring fires in Kuwait's oilfields expect the remaining wells to be capped in less than two weeks. "If we keep up the current pace, the wells will be out in less than two weeks," one American firefighter said. The last well will be capped by a Kuwaiti team. Up to 27 years tackling the world's worst oilfield disaster say they are now capping up to six wells a day compared to one every four days when they started battling the inferno in March. The teams say some of the remaining wells are difficult to cap because of ground fires raging around them. The emirate is currently producing 294,000 barrels of crude per day against a daily output of two million barrels before Iraq's invasion of Aug. 2, 1990.

Saudis send \$3 million to PLO

TUNIS (R) — Saudi Arabia has sent the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) a cheque for nearly \$3 million it collected from private donors, a senior Palestinian official said Friday. Abu Ala, director of the PLO's Economic and Financial Department, told Reuters the gift came from the Saudi Arabian Committee for the Support of the Palestinian Combatants. PLO relations with Riyadh soured during the Gulf war. PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed-Rabbo said Thursday after talks in Damascus with Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal that Saudi Arabia had pledged to restore ties. Diplomats in Tunis said relations had improved because of the PLO's acceptance of the Middle East peace talks sponsored by Washington and Moscow. "Saudi Arabia is among the countries which are the most aware of Palestinian difficulties," Mr. Abu Ala said. "We are sure its support will continue and be intensified." Under resolutions adopted at a 1988 Arab summit in Algiers Saudi Arabia agreed to give the PLO \$6.2 million a month.

Saudis planning purchase of British equipment

LONDON (AP) — Saudi Arabia expects to announce a major purchase of British defence equipment by the end of this year, the Times of London reported Friday quoting the Saudi ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Prince Bandar Ben Sultan did not specify the composition of the order or the amount. But the Times estimated the sale at \$10 billion (\$17 billion) over five years. It said the order is expected to include 48 Tornados and 60 Hawk jet fighters made by British Aerospace, 40 helicopters made by Westland Group, six minesweepers and some air-to-air missiles.

Palestinian rebels control 'Ain Al Hilweh

SIDON (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat moved fast Friday to end a revolt against his acceptance of the Middle East peace conference, Palestinian sources said.

The sources at Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp said Mr. Arafat's command in Tunis was in radio contact with rebel commander Major Muir Makdah and that a compromise had been reached.

Maj. Makdah, who heads the security apparatus known as Force 17 of the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction, on Thursday seized control of Fatah's command headquarters in a day-long bloodless upheaval.

Maj. Makdah's 300 hardcore guerrillas controlled all Fatah's centers in 'Ain Al Hilweh Friday. They patrolled the streets and alleyways as well as the camp's inlets and outlets.

"What happened was merely a change in our military positions," Maj. Makdah told a news conference at Fatah's command headquarters after the compromise was reached.

"It does not mean a mutiny or breakdown, I am the man responsible for the camp's security and have done what was done to consolidate the security of Fatah's posts," said Maj. Makdah.

However, he stressed his opposition to the peace conference set for Wednesday in Madrid "because it is a conference of capitulation. I have a right to demonstrate my opposition."

Maj. Makdah, 35, also said he was against the recent conference in Tehran by about 450 Palestinian and Muslim leaders worldwide, which also opposed the Madrid conference.

Maj. Makdah opposes the peace conference because the PLO is not represented in the talks with a separate delegation to defend its demands. He and his followers believe the PLO's interests would be lost as other Arab delegates concentrate on their respective interests.

Reporters who toured the sprawling camp found no signs of

tension among its estimated 50,000 inhabitants, including 39,000 U.N.-registered refugees.

Maj. Makdah had earlier issued a communiqué calling on Arafat loyalists to fall in line or leave the camp, saying "we are all duty-bound to defend our cause, the cause of Palestine. We say 'no' to the peace conference."

But after the compromise with the PLO headquarters, Maj. Makdah allowed the PLO security chief, Major Kamal Medhat, who fled to the southern-most Lebanese port of Tyre Thursday, to return to 'Ain Al Hilweh.

"What happened was not a revolt. We still are brothers," Maj. Medhat told reporters upon his return. "Fatah remains unequivocally under Arafat's leadership."

The sources have earlier predicted that Mr. Arafat would be able to resolve the revolt if he abolishes the salary cuts he had introduced for Fatah's guerrillas after the Gulf war.

"If Arafat loosens the purse, then there is a fair chance the revolt will be amicably settled and the PLO will be back in the saddle," said one source.

He said later that the Tunis command had actually agreed to abolish the salary cuts introduced last March after the Gulf war was over.

Mr. Arafat's austerity measures followed the suspension of the PLO subsidies by the oil-rich Gulf Arab states because Arafat sided with Iraq.

Maj. Makdah used the absence of Mr. Arafat's top lieutenants from the camp to stage his revolt. His men seized Fatah's command headquarters, which directs political and military activity of the organisation in South Lebanon.

Most of the pro-Arafat officials were in Tunis for consultations about the peace conference.

The majority of Maj. Makdah's followers belonged to the first wave of Palestinian emigration after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, when Israel was created.

The pro-Arafat commanders in 'Ain Al Hilweh all belonged to the second Palestinian diaspora triggered by 1967 war.

Israel names hardline delegation

(Continued from page 1) Yosef Hadas, acting director-general of the foreign ministry, Shlomo Ben-Ami, ambassador to Spain;

Eytan Bentsur, deputy director-general of the foreign ministry;

Sallai Meridor, political adviser to Defence Minister Moshe Arens;

Brigadier General Ekinol Mor, head of analysis for the army's military intelligence division.

Assad Assad, a member of Israel's Druze minority who is Shamir's adviser for Druze affairs.

Shortly before the Israeli team was announced a row erupted which could threaten the conference, due to be opened by the U.S. and Soviet presidents in Madrid Wednesday.

Mr. Shamir's bureau chief Yosi Alhimor said Israel would walk out if Palestinian delegate Sabir Erekat attended the talks.

He said he hoped the United States would "handle" the problem before the conference convened.

Mr. Erekat told Cable News Network (CNN) television Wednesday the Palestinian team represented the PLO.

"We are the PLO delegation, this delegation was chosen by the PLO," Mr. Erekat said.

"Everybody heard Mr. Erekat's declarations so it is self-evident about his activity of membership (in the PLO)," Mr. Alhimor said.

Overall Palestinian delegation head Faisal Husseini distanced himself from Mr. Erekat saying only he or delegation spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi could make official statements on behalf of the Palestinian team.

But Mr. Husseini's statement did not placate the Israelis.

"If we will see in front of our eyes people connected, belonging to or representing the PLO, either they or us will leave," he said. "It (Mr. Erekat's statements) causes problems, it causes trouble and we hope the Americans will handle it."

Profiles of Israeli delegation

FOLLOWING ARE profiles of the 14-Israeli negotiators named Friday for the Middle East peace conference to begin next week in Madrid, Spain.

— Yitzhak Shamir, 76, Israel's prime minister, will head the delegation. Born in Poland, he immigrated to British-mandate Palestine in 1935 and became a leader of Lehi, the most extreme Jewish underground fighting the British. After statehood, Mr. Shamir spent years with the Mossad intelligence service before his 1970 election to parliament. He inherited the prime ministry in 1983 from Menachem Begin, was deputy prime minister 1984-86 and resumed the premiership in 1986.

— Yosef "Yossi" Ben-Aharon, 59, is expected to head the bilateral talks with Syria. He is director-general of the prime ministry and Mr. Shamir's chief political adviser. Born in Jerusalem, Mr. Ben-Aharon spent most of his early years in Port Said, Egypt. He majored in Arabic and Middle East history at Hebrew University. He was deputy consul-general in New York in the late 1970s.

— Elyakim Rubinstein, 44, cabinet secretary closely associated with Mr. Shamir. He was born in Tel Aviv and holds a B.A. in Middle Eastern studies from Tel Aviv University. After compulsory army service, he joined the army's intelligence branch. He fought in the 1967 and 1973 Middle East wars and in Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

— Binyamin "Bibi" Netanyahu,

41, is deputy foreign minister. Born in Israel, he earned a bachelor's and master's degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He worked in the Israeli embassy in Washington from 1982-84 and was ambassador to the United Nations from 1984-88. He often served as a spokesman for Israel during the Gulf war.

— Zalman Shoval, 61, is Israel's ambassador to the United States. He was born in Germany, and immigrated to British-mandate Palestine in 1938. He holds a Ph.D. in international relations and worked as a banker. He served three terms in the parliament before being appointed ambassador in 1990.

The other members of the Israeli delegation are:

— Shlomo Ben-Ami, ambassador to Spain

— Eytan Bentsur, deputy director-general of the foreign ministry

— Assad Assad, a member of Israel's Druze minority who is Mr. Shamir's adviser for Druze affairs.

Before the announcement, Israel radio reported that Mr. Shamir called Labour Party leader Shimon Peres and asked him to name a member to join the negotiations in an apparent effort to reach a broader consensus.

Labour named Israeli-born Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, but his name was not on the list of delegates, presumably meaning he may be named to the advisory team.

لبنان الانفاط 1991

RUTA LOS NABATEOS

Jordan by 4 wheel drive cars.
Press for tourism announce
at desert trip by 4 wheel
drive cars from 8 nov to 14 nov.
trip will include nights in
Dead Sea, Petra, Mudawara, Wadrum, Aqaba.

For more details please contact
MOTOR EXPRESS
Tel: 6024

EL SOL

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le Chevalier de Labyrinthe
18:30 Les Chevaliers du Ciel
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Totally Hidden VI
21:00 Encounter
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Uncle Buck"

PRAYER TIMES

04:19 Fajr
05:36 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:21 Dhuhr
14:25 Asr
17:04 Maghrib
18:23 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 63785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Torre Santa Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Asselam Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 683226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812285
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 659322
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Clouds at low altitudes will appear and there will be a slight drop in temperatures scattered showers of rain are expected and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 13 / 24
Aqaba 18 / 32
Deraa 12 / 26
Jordan Valley 18 / 30

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 26, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 40 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBMAN:
Dr. Joseph Inali 770500
Dr. Mohammad Manna 741444
Dr. Yusef Samour 615646
Dr. Khalid Ma'addi 743500
Firas pharmacy 681912
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Amman pharmacy 637025
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Sahm pharmacy 636730
Yaoub pharmacy 644945
Shoosad pharmacy 637660

IREED:
Dr. Mohammed Al Shara 623101
Al Shara pharmacy 275825

ZARQA:
Dr. Yashar Al Tarihi 985417
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Traffic Police 843482
Public Security Department 896390
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 767111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdul Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 816515

HOSPITALS

AMBMAN:
Hanan Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642216
Akil Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642262
Malha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsat 6641714
Shamsat Hospital 649845
University Hospital 651277
Al-Mashar Hospital 661277
The Islamic, Abadi 6661273
Al-Ahli, Abadi 6641646
Baitan, Al-Mashar 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Amn. 7731126
Army, Marja 8916175
Queens Al-Hospital 6024050
Amal Hospital 674155
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)98332
Zarqa National Hospital (09)90260
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732

Electric Power Company 63681
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09) 99390
IREED:
Francis Basmeh Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Rm Al-Natool Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Firas Elaya Hospital (09)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (09)3320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:20 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

06:00 Damascus (RJ)
06:00 New Delhi (RJ)
06:30 Dhahran (RJ)
06:30 Amman (RJ)
06:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
06:30 Colombo (RJ)
06:30 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
06:30 Beirut (RJ)
06:30 London (RJ)
06:30 Cairo (RJ)
06:30 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
06:30 Tripoli (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Paris (AF)
06:30 Beirut (ME)
11:00 Sanaa (Y)
13:00 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upstream price in \$/kg
Apples 500 / 450
Bananas (Mukawana) 350 / 300
Bananas 350 / 300
Cabbage 170 / 160
Cauliflower 240 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 150 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 350 / 300
Eggplant 800 / 700
Garlic 900 / 600
Grapes 400 / 350
Lemon 200 / 150
Mint 150 / 100
Mint (large) 350 / 300
Okra 800 / 700
Onion (dry) 200 / 150
Pepper (hot) 260 / 200
Pepper (sweet) 400 / 350
Potato 300 / 250
Spinach 600 / 500
Sweet melon 220 / 180
Tomatoes 250 / 200
Watermelon 140 / 100

Man, with dynamite in mouth, kills self

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 42-year-old man from Maan committed suicide Thursday by detonating explosives he had attached to his head and body.

Nabil Mohammad Al Awadeh, a quarry owner, drove his pick-up to the Maan cemetery accompanied by his teenage son Ashraf. He then put a dynamite bar in his mouth and connected it to the car battery, a Maan resident told the Jordan Times.

The resident, who did not wish to be identified, said the man's upper half was "mutilated beyond recognition."

He said the son was not harmed by the explosion.

Mr. Awadeh, originally from Nabulus in the West Bank, had access to explosives to use in his quarry, the Maan resident said.

The resident, who has connections to the police department, said Mr. Awadeh had recently run into financial problems, had divorced his second wife and had quarrels with his relatives.

The police department in Maan declined to give any information about the incident.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Austria

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim congratulating him on his country's national day. The King expressed his best wishes to the Austrian president on the occasion and wished the Austrian people further progress and prosperity.

Lawzi praises Jordanian position

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Friday stressed Jordan's principled stand which calls for uniting Arab ranks and achieving solidarity. Addressing a large audience at the Arab Youth Forum, Mr. Lawzi called on the Arab Nation to rise above the rifts and differences and to learn from the mistakes of the past in order to achieve a better future for the generations to come.

Delegation leaves for AAU meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Presidents of Jordanian universities Thursday left for Doha to take part in the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) meetings due to be held in the Qatari capital today. Participants will discuss the association's budget, its annual report and will elect a new secretary general for a four-year term.

Madrid media delegation named

AMMAN (Petra) — Tareq Khouri of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, was named to head the Jordanian official media delegation to Spain where they are expected to cover the peace conference which will convene there on Oct. 30. The delegation includes Mureed Hammad and Kassab Samawi from Jordan Television, Omar Al Omari from Petra, and Mohammad Al Sharif from Radio Jordan.

New hotel opens in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — Maan Governor Qasim Al Farayeh Thursday stood in for His Majesty King Hussein in opening the Aquamarina III Hotel in Aqaba. The hotel includes 54 rooms with 120 beds.

Symposium on food pricing concludes

AMMAN (Petra) — A six-day symposium on pricing and food subsidy policies concluded here Thursday with a call for providing the right climate to ensure interaction between supply and demand. The symposium also called for providing the infrastructure needed to promote marketing, such as road networks, storage areas, databases and other baseline information.

ESCWA and specialised agencies celebrate United Nations Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UNDP and specialised agencies based in Amman Thursday celebrated United Nations Day.

During a ceremony under the patronage of the His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, at the Royal Cultural Centre, Dr. Tayseer Abdel Jabbar — under secretary-general and executive secretary of ESCWA — addressed ministers, representatives of the specialised agencies and their staff members.

Crown Prince Hassan underlined the seriousness of the situation in Jordan in the aftermath of the Gulf war and reminded that his country witnessed the arrival of "the largest wave of migration" that started with the Palestinian exodus in 1948 and again in 1967 and ended with the hundreds of thousands of returnees from the Gulf countries.

He made reference to an ESCWA report on migration, and reiterated his country's need for external aid to help absorb the "waves of exodus." He reaffirmed that the \$4.5 billion Jordan needs in this context would barely help safeguarding the current standard of life.

Underlining the three major issues that have to be dealt with in the regional and in the international levels in order to enhance the development and security in the Middle East, namely arms control energy, and debt relief, Prince Hassan called for additional efforts to tackle the problems of hunger and indebtedness and said "hunger is a form of genocide



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan addresses conference at Royal Cultural Centre celebrating United Nations Day Thursday (Petra photo)

that threatens the human beings."

While emphasising the role of the organisation of the United Nations, Crown Prince Hassan said the U.N. should reassess its role through emphasising coordination. The structural elements must be reformed to ensure symmetry, he said.

The Crown Prince called upon the U.N. family to assist the region by enhancing inter-disciplinarity and by reinforcing regional cooperation, adding that the United Nations presence can only be ensured by its members.

Dr. Tayseer Abdel Jabbar, said in his statement that Western Asia region has not witnessed in recent history a more difficult year than the one that has just passed. It was a truly

bitter one, during which all the peoples of the region and in particular those of Kuwait and of Iraq, lived a total economic and social tragedy.

Dr. Abdel Jabbar recalled that thousands of citizens were displaced with immense suffering and Jordan, with its deep rooted traditions of generosity and hospitality, was able to facilitate and assist the flow of hundreds of thousands of evacuees. He expressed the hope that the multilateral and bilateral assistance will help alleviate Jordan's economic problems resulting from the tragedy.

The executive secretary of ESCWA regretted that armed conflicts have destroyed the infrastructure and public services projects in more than one country of the region.

Dr. Abdel Jabbar said that the occupation by Israel of Palestinian and other Arab territories for about a quarter of a century, the consequences of Lebanon, the consequences of the Iraq/Iran War and the Gulf war have weakened the region's capacity to confront the basic issues of development in the right manner.

Welcoming the peace conference on the Middle East due to be held in Madrid, Dr. Abdel Jabbar expressed the hope that the conflicts in the region find their way towards resolution in conformity with justice and international legitimacy. He concluded his statement by reading the message of the secretary-general of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar, on the occasion of the U.N. Day.

REVIEW

Don Pasquale delights audience with humour

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Opera Don Pasquale performed Wednesday night at the Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental captured the delight of the audience.

Presented for the first time in Jordan, this comedy opera tells the story of an old man who disinherits his nephew for disobeying him and not marrying someone chosen for him. Instead, he weds a young bride who, ironically, turns out to be the nephew's poor sweetheart.

The story takes on a humorous twist as the nephew, Ernesto played by Harry Nicoll, the uncle's spiky doctor, Dr. Malatesta played by Christopher Blades, and the strong-willed witty young bride (and Ernesto's sweetheart)

Norina, played by Carol Meyer, gang up against the elderly uncle and fake his marriage in order to disinherit his nephew.

Burdened with bills from his new bride's and wasteful spending, the ignorant Don Pasquale seeks the advice of the good doctor. The doctor, in collusion with Norina, persuades her to divorce Don Pasquale, claiming the (Don Pasquale) has another bride. The opera is thus concluded with the unveiling of the cast's true identities and the realisation of Don Pasquale's error.

The opera, the cast, the set and the music were very heart warming. The voices and performances of the four main stars, especially the coy, prud-

ish act of the good doctor, is entrancing and adds spice to the story line.

Don Pasquale's character, played by Atilla Manizade, takes the audience through a roller coaster of emotions, at the start of the opera, a pompous Don Pasquale throws his nephew out in the cold with no second thoughts, but throughout the opera and up until the true identities of the cast are revealed, the emotional setback suffered by Don Pasquale at the hands of his bride (especially when he is slapped by her) makes the audience feel sorry for him.

The witty and strong character of Norina, and the act she puts on at the start of the opera, in collaboration with the good doctor, is a magical combination that gives this

opera its comic edge. All in all, the opera, the cast and their performance were delightful and entertaining.

Minister: UNESCO offices to remain in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The regional office of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will remain in Amman to continue to practice as a centre for cultural activities and communication for Arab countries, according to Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat.

Speaking upon returning to Amman from a UNESCO meeting in Paris, Dr. Dahiyat said he had held meetings with UNESCO officials over this matter and came to an agreement with them that the regional office in Amman will operate as a centre for training and research, specifically related to women in the Arab region.

Last July, UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor announced that the UNESCO offices in Amman would be moved to Beirut and would be operational in the Lebanese capital by April 1992. The decision caused deep concern among



Eid Dahiyat

local Jordanian staff employed by the organisation in Amman.

With reference to the UNESCO meeting, Dr. Dahiyat said that his delegation submitted to the meeting an outline of Jordan's educational policies and

achievements. Dr. Dahiyat said that the Jordanian delegation provided UNESCO with complete files of educational cultural and scientific projects of concern to the Kingdom. Among these, he said, was the restoration of the Qasr Al Bint Castle at the ancient Nabatean City of Petra.

The minister said that Jordan has secured UNESCO's approval to finance the restoration project.

He said that a UNESCO team will visit Jordan in the coming month to conduct technical studies prior to financing Jordan's national museum, a project undertaken by the Jordanian government.

The minister also noted that UNESCO will provide assistance to the Ministry of Education to help it overcome difficulties and shoulder the burden of educating thousands of expatriate children returning from Kuwait.

Dr. Dahiyat was accompanied to the meeting by a team of senior ministry officials.

Trial of Mohammad's Army adjourned until Monday; judge denies acquittal of 18 defendants based on technicality

AMMAN (J.T.) — The State Security Court has adjourned proceedings of the trial of the self-styled Mohammad's Army until Monday.

The postponement decision was taken Wednesday after a session during which the court heard the testimony of a number of witnesses, including an intelligence officer. The court panel had earlier taken a decision declaring the interrogation carried out by a number of intelligence officers as legally valid.

In Wednesday's session, which lasted four hours, the court panel listened to an explanation by the advocate Mousa Al Aaraj on the defences raised in earlier sessions. In this regard, he noticed that defences focused on whether it was the prerogative of the

General Intelligence Department to arrest people at a time when Martial Law regulations were abrogated.

The defence based its argument on the fact that the issue of the prerogative is a purely administrative one and that the General Intelligence Department was an administrative department. It went on by saying that the Higher Court of Justice, in its capacity as the administrative party in charge of looking into administrative issues, had looked into this issue and settled it more than three years ago. The Higher Court of Justice decision, passed on Sept. 18, 1989 about the prerogative of administrative bodies, ruled that the General Intelligence Department director was not authorised

to arrest any persons because nothing in its laws gives it the right to arrest people.

In light of this, the defence called for the immediate release of all 18 defendants, Mr. Aaraj said.

Replying to the defence, Judge Yousef Faouri, said the ruling of the Higher Court of Justice does not apply to this particular case because the director general of the General Intelligence Department did not issue a warrant for the arrest of the defendants nor did any of the intelligence officers. He added that the warrant of arrest was issued by the military prosecutor general and, therefore, the court deemed the defence's request invalid.

Officials counting country's livestock

AMMAN (J.T.) — The counting of sheep and goats has started throughout the country and officials from the Ministry of Interior along with teams from the Health, Industry, Trade and Supply, Education and Agriculture ministries are supervising the operation.

Ministry of Interior sources said that the census was needed to gather complete information about the livestock wealth in Jordan so that farmers can receive fodder during droughts.

Prime Minister Taher Masi had issued an order to the concerned government departments to embark on the counting of animals in the rural, badia and border regions. The various ministries are assisted in this process by the Department of Statistics, the badia and border police as well as governors of the various provinces.

Amman Governor Issa Al Omari announced that the counting of sheep within the Amman Governorate has been completed and that a total of 713,339 heads of sheep, cattle and goats were found in the region. The governor of Maan reported that his governorate was found to have 577,506 heads of cattle, sheep, goats, camels and horses.

The process was still continuing Friday, and according to Interior Ministry sources, it will be several days before the final counts can be known and published.

Ministry denies report that commercial quantities of oil had been found

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has denied a report published by Akhbar Al Ushra Thursday which said that oil has been found in commercial quantities in Jordan.

The current oil production at the Hamzah Fields near the Iraqi border stands at 200 barrels a day as was reported by Natural Resources Authority (NRA) Director General Kamal Jreissat, said a ministry statement. It said the weekly magazine's report about commercial amounts of oil found in Jordan was groundless.

The report said that oil had been found in commercial quantities at a number of sites being

explored by the NRA teams.

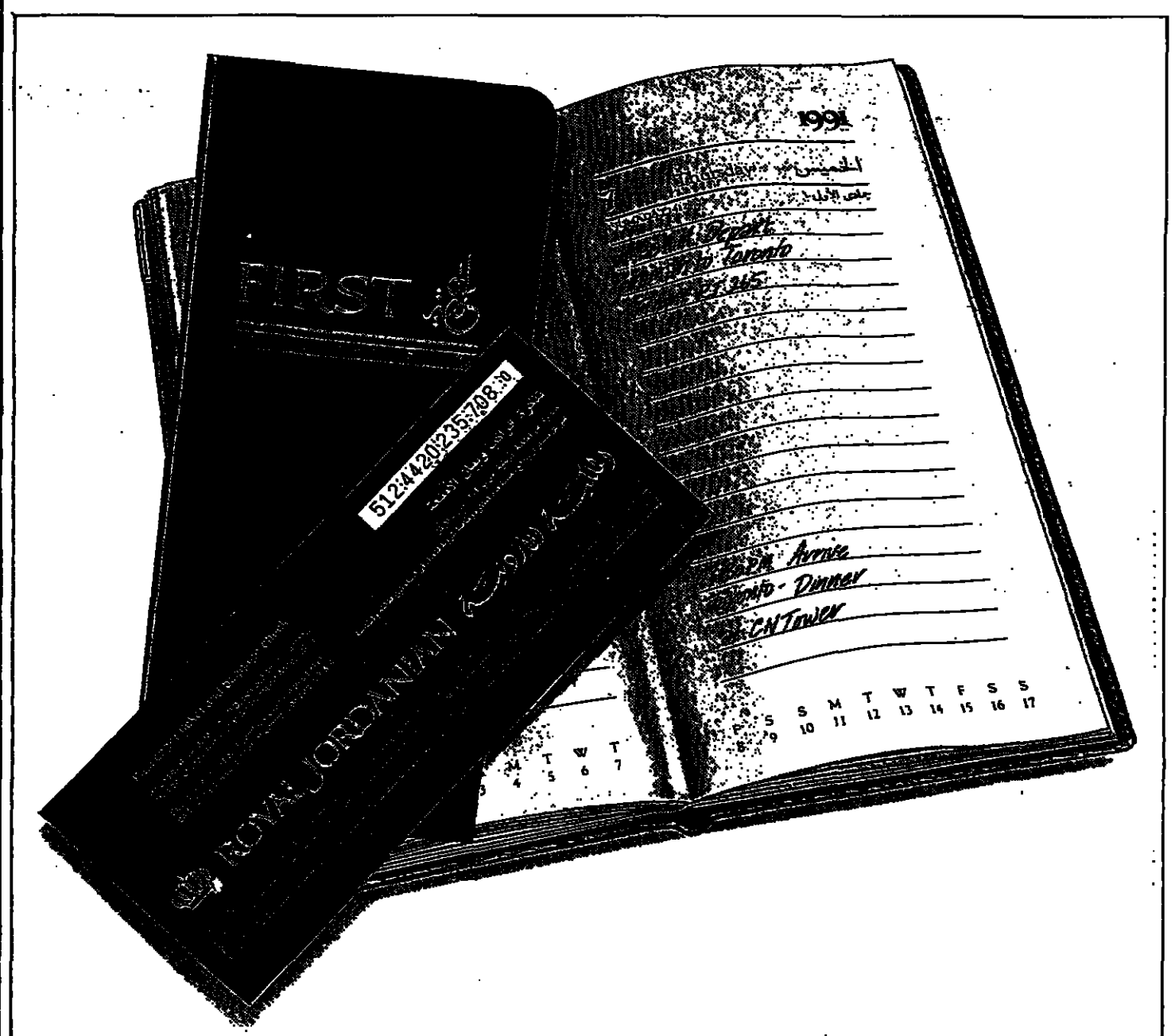
The ministry statement described the magazine's report that oil was found at the Dead Sea area as purely imaginative.

The statement expressed regret that such incorrect information was being published in the press and said that such false reports can only confuse citizens and harm the image of the NRA teams, which are now conducting oil and gas exploration in Jordan.

The statement said that the NRA teams were pursuing their efforts as best they could and the natural gas found in the Rishleh area was being utilised to generate electric power.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Art exhibition by Abdul Rauf Shamoun, Khalid Kireis and Mohammad Hussein Abdallah at Abdul Hameed Shomam Foundation Gallery (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Sana Ata at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Sheikh Ibrahim — Johann Ludwig Burchardt (1784-1917)" at the reception hall of the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists Ghassan Abu Laban, Haddi Bassam, Akhbar Abu Judeh and Sanaa Hindi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of water colour paintings by Australian artist Jennifer Bowker at Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider", organised by the Goethe Institute in cooperation with the University of Jordan.
- ★ A special season of antique lithographs, engravings, folio illustrations and maps, 18th & 19th century prints of Palestine, Jordan — the Mideast as well as orientalist scenes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- ★ Lecture entitled "Behavioural Factors in Architecture and Urban Design: Environmental Psychology and the Applied Design Disciplines" by Dr. Mohammad S. Al Mami at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.



TORONTO. SAME DAY

Now, Royal Jordanian flies direct from Amman to Toronto.

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Fly every Thursday on our luxurious TriStar from Amman to Toronto, arriving the same evening to pursue your planned activities.

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ROYAL JORDANIAN

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
جورديان تايمز مؤسسة للصحافة والاعلام

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Tough choices are shaping up for Israel

By Anthony Lewis

BOSTON — No one who knows the Middle East will celebrate yet. The substance of a successful negotiation, the give-and-take needed to make it work, is still hard to envisage. But there are going to be negotiations, starting next week in Madrid, and that is remarkable enough.

For the first time in its 43 years as a state, Israel will meet face-to-face with each of its Arab neighbours — and with representative Palestinians. All the issues between them will be on the table: peace, security, land, people.

It is going to happen now because of President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker. Secretary of State Baker spent much of the last five months

wheeling and poshing the intractable parties. But this success was possible only because the president had the vision and courage to commit himself to this conference.

President Bush seized the moment, after the Gulf war, for a new effort at Arab-Israeli peace. He understood that some fundamental power relationships had changed. Those changes offer hope for an onset of reason in the Middle East.

The end of the cold war has had an immediate impact on the region. Soviet military support for Syria has ebbed, making President Hafez Al Assad look to improved relations with the United States. Israeli and U.S. fear of communist influence has abated, making possible a joint

Soviet-American invitation to Madrid.

The decline in Soviet power is also having a profound impact on U.S.-Israeli relations. It has weakened, or removed, one basis for the close ties of recent decades and for huge levels of U.S. aid: the idea that Israel was a strategic asset for America in a vital part of the world.

The Gulf war showed that U.S. armed forces could act in the Middle East without Israel. In that war, Israel was a complication rather than an asset in U.S. military calculations.

Americans are still committed to help Israel, for reasons of history and conscience. But it is clear that a more detached relationship is developing, one in which America will more freely weigh its own values and in-

terests.

The Economist wrote last month: "Americans still express their moral commitment to Israel's survival; but Israel's moral case grows steadily weaker as it refuses to extend to the Palestinians the right of self-determination that has become a cornerstone of the emerging world order. A peace which left Israel ruling over millions of voteless Palestinians has become unthinkable."

Israelis are increasingly aware that they cannot expect unconditional support from the United States, that they can maintain the vital American connection only by paying attention to U.S. interests. Mr. Bush made that bluntly clear when he postponed consideration of loan guarantees; too bluntly, most Israelis thought,

although they understood the larger point.

In this new relationship, the territories occupied by Israel since 1967 are the crunch. U.S. policy is to end Israeli control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and their more than 1.5 million inhabitants. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and much of his government are committed to creating annexation of the territories.

A choice is thus shaping up for Israel: Keep the occupied territories or keep U.S. support.

Economic realities are also pushing Israel to make a choice about the occupied territories. Bernard Avishai explores the reasons for this in the forthcoming issue of the Harvard Business Review. The \$10 billion sought

from the United States in loan guarantees is to build housing for Soviet immigrants to Israel. But if those immigrants are to have jobs, Mr. Avishai says, Israel will need two or three times that much in investment capital from the world. And Israel will have to change its protective economic policies and become part of the global market, using its special scientific and intellectual talents.

But there will be no large-scale foreign investment, Mr. Avishai writes, and no long-term contracts with Israeli companies while the world sees insecurity over the issue of the occupied territories. "Israel can have the Whole Land of Israel," he concludes, "or it can have a piece of the global economy." — The New York Times.

No peace with hunger

THE FINDING, on the eve of the holding of the Madrid peace conference, by independent groups that infant and child mortality rate in Iraq has quadrupled since the end of the Gulf crisis because of food and medicine shortage is appalling and sad. The Iraqi people are increasingly becoming victims of a merciless power struggle between their regime and a heartless new world order. That innocent people have fallen victim to a series of resolutions adopted by the larger international community is tragic in every sense of the word.

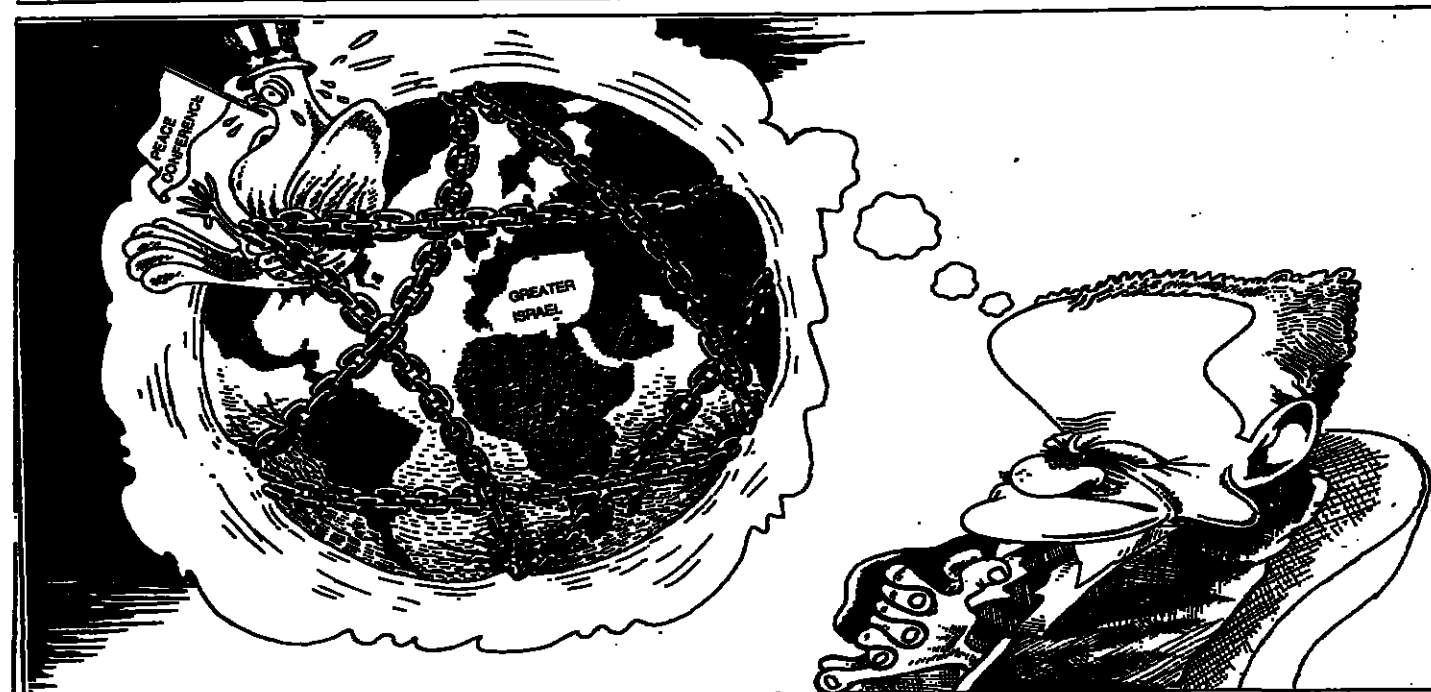
The Iraqis are incapable, as the West well knows, of toppling their regime. The prospects of them doing so is very grim indeed. Meanwhile, the regime, itself submerged in its own rhetoric, has failed to, or has no intention of, rehabilitating itself into either its Arab environs or the community of nations at large. It is most unfortunate therefore that the Iraqi people, for long an oppressed lot, should be the victims of an endless and cruel fight between the president of Iraq and the president of the U.S. The U.S. Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney was quoted recently as predicting the Iraqi president's "days were numbered." Only two weeks ago the Iraqi president himself swore that Iraq would not give in to Western pressure and that his country could live with the economic sanctions for 20 years if need be. What is strikingly clear is that the people of Iraq will bear the brunt of this merciless war between the U.S. on the one side and the Iraqi leadership on the other. While it seems not possible to convince the Iraqi president to retire and spare his people more misery and agony, it looks equally unlikely to imagine that the Iraqi people under pressure to manage their basic life would revolt and bring change to their devastated country.

It has been proven on other occasions that sanctions only strengthen the grip of regimes on the people. If anything, the Iraqi people need to live decently before attempting to make political change. The Iraqi regime, composed of army generals and Baath party officials has since the Gulf war ended consolidated its hold to power and is increasingly showing signs of confidence. Meanwhile, the Iraqi people should not be made to endure the brunt of the sanctions. These sanctions were originally mandated to force Iraq to abandon Kuwait; they were not given sufficient time to work and, therefore, they could not achieve that objective. The objective was later changed. The blockade would remain on until the leadership was toppled. The sanctions are already more than one year old. Their effect on the regime are minimal. The Iraqi people as such had very little to do with the Kuwait invasion or the standoff that ensued. In particular, the children of Iraq are the ultimate victims. This shameful state of affairs should not continue. Little children should not be made the victims of governments whether they are democrats or dictators.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FURTHER to its intentions to sabotage the peace conference, Israel has carried out a provocative action by moving the headquarters of the border guards to East Jerusalem, Al Ra'i daily said in commenting on the obstacles in the path of the peace process. The paper also referred to a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Strasbourg in which he said that there was no occupied Arab territory which can be exchanged for peace with the Arabs. All these provocative actions, while the time for the peace conference draws near, indicate clearly that the Jewish state is determined to keep Arab land and turn down any attempt to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions. It said that these actions are coupled with an escalation of terrorist practices against the Palestinians and by statements by extremists attacking the idea of the conference and the bid to achieve peace with the Palestinians and the Arabs because this would mean a withdrawal from occupied land. It is good that the Arab parties are well aware of Israel's real intentions, but such awareness is not enough to force the Israelis to succumb to the will of the world community, said the paper. The paper demanded that the superpowers exert further serious efforts to force Israel to give up its terrorist policies which aim at sabotaging the conference. The paper said that the world community is now well aware of Israel's manoeuvres and can by no means allow Israel to undermine the opportunity for peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily welcomed the declared intention of a majority of expatriates to invest in productive projects in Jordan and said that thousands of those who came back to the homeland have vast experience and substantial capital, vital for any venture. Nazih said that these expatriates are determined to invest in projects not only to benefit themselves but also to serve their country which is offering them the chance to operate and prosper. The writer commended the government's trend to offer facilities for such projects but noted that any venture requires preparations and good planning. He said that the expatriates are in need of further facilities from the government before they can embark with greater confidence on projects useful for Jordan and they are also in need of advice which the concerned ministries can offer through their specialised units. The writer said that all concerned government departments are called upon to expand the margin of facilities so far offered to investors and noted the exceptional circumstances facing Jordan at the moment require exceptional decisions and more courageous steps leading towards prosperity.



U.S. media play down conference

By Allison Kaplan

The Jerusalem Post. WASHINGTON — Far from creating fireworks, the announcement of the Middle East peace conference hit here with a dull thud.

Though the painstaking progress toward Madrid has been dutifully reported in the media, the peace process is hardly the talk of the town — or the country.

Foreign news, other than war, traditionally fails to grip the imagination of the average American, and even more so when the country is consumed with domestic concerns. In the past week, Middle East developments have clearly been overshadowed by the aftermath of the messy and more titillating soap opera surrounding the battle over Clarence Thomas's nomination to the Supreme Court.

Even foreign policy specialists, Mideast experts and those who are following the process closely greeted the announcement of the conference without much excitement. Looking toward Madrid, their predictions are somber, often downright pessimistic, with most anticipating an impasse over the principle of land for peace

that will be difficult, if not impossible to overcome.

Commentators are stressing that, while President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker may have gotten the parties to the negotiating table, they have no idea what they are going to do once they are there. Even optimists say that Mr. Bush's stated goal of "real peace" is a remote possibility at best.

"I wouldn't bet my ranch" on the chances of a diplomatic triumph, said ABC News White House correspondent Brit Hume, a tennis partner of Mr. Bush's, told his viewers yesterday.

Any hope that the ceremonial opening will be followed by concrete progress is based on the prospect that the same forces that brought the parties to the table — a desire not to anger the U.S. — will keep them there.

Arabs and Israelis are "not saying yes to each other yet," said William Quandt, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute and a former top State Department official. "They're saying yes to the U.S."

He predicted that, after the ceremonial opening, the process will be marked by "pauses and

recesses and stalemates and lots of acrimony," and it will break down when the parties move to bilateral negotiations.

"Leaving the parties more or less on their own is a guarantee that they're going to confront each other with the starkness of their real positions, and it will be a stalemate."

Another former State Department official, Richard Murphy, appearing with Mr. Quandt on the MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour, agreed that the bilaterals will likely break down. "Within a matter of days," he said, the Arabs and Israelis will realise "that mediation by the U.S., perhaps also by the Soviet Union, will be essential, and they can't make it on their own."

The more cynical believe the entire Madrid effort is based not on the genuine desire of the parties in the region, but on Mr. Bush's desire to create a grand photo opportunity on the eve of his 1992 re-election campaign.

Though he can still claim the Gulf war was a victory, Mr. Bush can point to few tangible results. Saddam Hussein is still in power, the restored Kuwaiti monarchy is far from democracy, and American efforts to create a post-war

security structure to protect the oil-rich region seem to be coming apart. There were reports yesterday that the U.S. is being forced to bring home equipment it had wanted to pre-position in Saudi Arabia, because of Saudi objections to a continuing American military presence.

Since the conference is meant to be Mr. Bush's Middle East triumph, administration officials are reminding the press that the fact the parties are talking is an accomplishment, even if it does not result in a tangible progress.

With so little of the optimism that surrounded the Camp David process, there seems to be no reason to hope for similar achievements in Madrid.

"The diplomacy leading up to the peace conference has been a sterile exercise in closed-door deal-making involving no more than a few dozen people at most in any country," Thomas Friedman, the New York Times State Department correspondent wrote. "No Arab or Israeli leader has prepared his people for a historic transformation in relations. But without such a change in attitudes, no real peace will be possible."

Palestinians suggest measures

(Continued from page 1)

meetings will indeed be held and "we will not waste any time in Amman." Dr. Abdul Shaif, 72, told journalists the Palestinian delegation that he heads will demand the right to self-determination.

"We are going to demand our rights to national independence and the right of refugees to return within the resolutions of the Security Council, and we go to the conference with all sincerity and dedication," Dr. Abdul Shaif said.

Dr. Ashrawi, who will most likely act as the spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation at the Madrid conference, vowed that the Palestinian team would do its utmost to ensure that the rights of the Palestinians were met.

"We are extremely serious and extremely dedicated and we are going to do our best to make sure that this is an even-handed process that is going to bring about a just peace," Dr. Ashrawi stressed.

She said that they would press for achieving Palestinian national rights and to ensure that peace be based on "symmetry and equity for all parties." The U.S. supports Palestinian "legitimate political" rights but has not yet endorsed Palestinian "national" rights since that might imply support for an independent Palestinian state, which Washington opposes.

She described the Palestinian attendance at the peace conference as very significant and important, but added that "pain" accompanied the Palestinians as they head for the conference.

"As we left there were many people in tears; we were in tears," Dr. Ashrawi said.

News agencies reported that a cheering and shouting crowd had sung the Palestinian national anthem as the tearful Palestinian team flashed V-for-victory signs and clenched their

fists and left Jerusalem in a bus towards the King Hussein bridge.

"It's not the fact that the Palestinians are recognised now as speaking for themselves as a national people with rights, but it is also the fact that we enter this process with handicaps," Dr. Ashrawi told reporters in Amman. "We enter the (peace) process while our people are being held as hostages under occupation."

"We are being forced to negotiate with our occupiers and we have a whole population that is being subjected to the most brutal treatment," Dr. Ashrawi said.

She added that the conference has adopted in many ways Israel's preconditions, which she described as being "very painful to us."

"We also cannot accept the exclusion of our legitimate leadership (PLO) from the negotiations, but we accepted all these unjust and painful constraints because we feel that we have to give this peace conference all the support it takes to get it moving and we have to get Israel to the negotiating table to see who is putting all the obstacles for peace in the region," she said, still smiling after hours of travelling.

She rejected suggestions that the issue of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories be negotiated at the conference, saying that the settlements were a violation of the Geneva conventions and that Israel had to first adhere to the agreements of the Geneva conventions before negotiations start.

"According to this convention, we cannot negotiate anything with the occupier while it is still occupying land and violating our rights. All violations will have to cease in order to start real negotiations," Dr. Ashrawi stressed. She added that besides the continued building of settlements, the Jewish state still expects Palestinians and continues to hold 19,000 political prisoners and detainees.

She told reporters later on the day

that the Palestinian team had "a long list of confidence-building measures" before it could start negotiations with Israel.

"We have a list of 25 confidence-building items, and we do not consider the cessation of settlements as a confidence-building measure," Dr. Ashrawi said. "The settlements have to be stopped immediately in order to legalise the Israeli position in the conference."

She added that another demand would be to release all Palestinian political prisoners and detainees, the reopening of all their closed institutions, the lifting of censorship and legalising all political parties.

Dr. Ashrawi also said that the 46-month-old intifada would intensify as their negotiating team attends the Middle East peace conference, and described the uprising as the "strength and legitimacy (behind) the Palestinian delegation."

"There is a tremendous spirit of determination among the Palestinians, and I think it will intensify; it will be more developed and consolidated," Dr. Ashrawi said.

Dr. Ashrawi described the agreements reached between the five Arab foreign ministers in Damascus as "extremely encouraging and heartening to the Palestinians under occupation."

In the meeting, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and the PLO agreed that no single treaty or agreement between any single Arab side and Israel would take place at the conference.

"We still think that the multi-lateral talks should not proceed unless the cause of the conflict is removed, which is the Israeli occupation of Arab lands," Dr. Ashrawi said.

Following are the 14 Palestinians in the "guidance committee"

Fahad Hussein, 50, head of the committee.

Radwan Abu Ayyash, 41, a native of the Askar refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus and former head of the Arab Journalists Association in the occupied territories.

Abdullah Hadi Abu Khussa, 48, from the Shatti refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

Saleh Abu Laban, 41, a resident of the Dehabe refugee camp in the West Bank.

Ziad Abu Ziad, 51, a lawyer and native of the village of Izzariya in the occupied West Bank.

Ahmad Yaziji, 45, a surgeon born in Gaza City in what is now the occupied Gaza Strip, and a former director of the city's Shifa hospital.

Hanan Ashrawi, 45, a native of Jerusalem and resident of Ramallah. Radi Al Jarai, 40, a native of the West Bank village of Talluza, he is a reporter for Al Fajr.

Zuhair Kamal, 46, was born in Jerusalem and remains a resident of the city. She founded and heads the Palestinian Federation of Women's Action committees in the occupied territories.

Rashid Khalidi, 40, who lives in the United States. He taught at the American University of Beirut before the Lebanon civil war. In the early 1980s he joined the political science faculty at Columbia University in New York City. He now teaches at Chicago State University in Illinois.

Kamuel Mansour, 50, a Palestinian author living in Paris. He was a researcher at the Foundation of Palestinian Studies in Beirut.

Sari Nusseibeh, 42, is a professor of philosophy at Bir Zeit University. Anis Al Qassem, 60, a Palestinian lawyer now living in London. He worked in Kuwait for more than a decade.

Jamil Tarifi, 44, a native of Ramallah. Disclosure of a private meeting he held in the summer of 1989 with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir caused in a stir in Jewish and Palestinian circles.

The week in print

Sound preparations for Madrid conference

JORDANIAN newspapers directed their attention in the past week to the peace conference due to open in Madrid at the end of the month and discussed preparations, like the Damascus meeting, as well as a number of domestic issues.

All three dailies Friday expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the Damascus meeting attended by the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and the PLO.

It is most satisfying to hear the foreign ministers reaching consensus on a unified Arab stand at the conference and to hear that the ministers would be holding periodic meetings to reassess the peace process, said Al Ra'i daily. Such agreement will no doubt give the Arab side to the peace process further backing and impetus for their work at the negotiating table, the paper said.

The Damascus declaration was a victory for the pan-Arab nationalists, paving the ground for a more fruitful cooperation in all matters of concern to the Arab Nation, said the paper.

Al Dustour described the outcome of the Damascus parity as fulfilling the aspirations of the Arab masses who hope that the Arabs will stand firm together at the Madrid meeting. The paper expressed hope that the foreign ministers will now move on to more constructive steps leading towards the final Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories so that peace and stability can be established in the region.

Sawt Al Shaab daily expressed satisfaction with the Arab foreign ministers' reaffirmation in their final statement of the need for the conference to achieve an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

The Israeli negotiating team is being led by Yitzhak Shamir, and extremists, and it is only natural for the Arabs to adopt a firm stand in the face of the coming challenge, the paper said. Unity, the paper added, is a must if the Arabs are to achieve success and ensure the restoration of Arab lands and Arab rights.

Discussing the prospects of success and failure of the Madrid conference, Salameh Ekour, who writes for Sawt Al Shaab, said that since the peace conference is regarded as a battle, the Jordanian people should be ready for it. The peace conference is not only for the government to handle but for all the political, technical, scientific and other forces to join; it will be a battle which will decide the future of the region, Ekour said. He said that those opposing the peace conference are also needed since this is a national battle, requiring expertise from any source. The writer said that the Arab side should leave no room for the Israelis to win the upper hand in the coming negotiations.

Dwelling on the same theme, Fakhri Kawar, who writes for Al Ra'i daily, said that Jordan Television and other official information media have been reflecting only the views of the government and repeating the views of only those citizens support-

ing the peace conference.

The writer criticised the official information media for not opening the way for those who reject the conference. The writer said that Jordan Television would have won real credibility had it given the chance to the rejectionists to voice their views as this, he said, would be a real practice of democracy.

His views were backed by Fahd Al Faneh, a columnist who writes for Al Ra'i. The writer said that the week-long campaign launched by the official media did not include any voices opposing the conference.

The campaign was not well planned and the interviews were done with only those persons who represent very limited number of Jordanians and not with the heads of political groups, the writer said.

He said that the campaign was counter-productive and was conducted in a way that would left understand that there was serious opposition to Jordan in going to the conference.

Columnist Taher Al Udwan, who writes in Al Dustour, discussed the Tehran Conference, called to voice opposition to the peace conference. Iran, which is strongly opposed to the peace conference, and claims to be supporting the Palestinians, should release the Iraqi military and commercial planes and open its borders with Iraq to break the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people as a sign of goodwill said the writer.

He said that Iran should back the Iraqis who have been trying to liberate Palestine and should not have sided with the Americans who launched a devastating war and aggression against the Iraqi people.

His views were backed by Mahmoud Al Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, who said that mere slogans issued by Tehran can by no means end Israel's occupation of Palestinian land. The Palestinian people under occupation are awaiting real help coming from Arab and Islamic countries which can speed up their liberation from oppression, the writer said.

Some columnists turned their attention to domestic issues, with Salah Abdul Samad, in Al Ra'i, dwelling in particular on the government's declared intention of increasing the salaries of government employees and civil servants.

The writer said that many of these employees are indeed afraid that the raise would bring about a new wave of soaring prices that would not match the increase in salaries.

The writer suggested that the government take the views of the economists and offer the public full information about this matter and also take strict measures against profiteers.

Columnist Mohammad Kawash, in Al Dustour, called on the government to offer the civil servants substantial salary increases to make up for the soaring prices. He said that employees' salaries in the private sector were far higher than those of employees working for the government.

'Palestinians must struggle inside and outside the peace conference to achieve their rights'

Europe can play a major role in settling the Palestinian problem — PLO official

By Sama Attieh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Negotiations with Israel at the U.S.-Soviet sponsored Middle East peace conference is a form of continued Palestinian struggle, and the intifada and armed struggle against Israeli military targets should be intensified while the conference convenes, said a senior advisor to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Nabil Shaath, who is a member of the PLO mainstream Fatah's Revolutionary Command Council, told a large crowd at Abdal Hameed Shoman Foundation last Wednesday night that Palestinians must now struggle "inside and outside the peace conference" to achieve their rights.

"Whoever wants to win any cards at the negotiating table must also escalate the intifada in the occupied territories and escalate the armed struggle against Israeli military targets," Dr. Shaath repeatedly said at the lecture.

"It is not true that the diplomatic struggle (at the conference) means giving up the political struggle because one cannot achieve much only through diplomacy," insisted Dr. Shaath, who is also heading the expert team for the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference.

Trying to convince the audience on why the Palestinians had to participate in the negotiations with Israel, Dr. Shaath said that the Palestinians had nothing to lose if they tried to diplomatically negotiate their way through a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

"We will always prove to America that without justice for the Palestinian people, there will be no stability, no peace and no security for anyone in the region," he added.

Dr. Shaath referred to U.S. President George Bush's speech to Congress on March 6, and quoted him as saying that the Middle East needed stability and peace through secure borders for the Israeli state and justice for the Palestinian people.

"What he meant," Dr. Shaath said referring to Mr. Bush's speech, "was that the Palestinians have proven that they are capable of destroying stability when they have no justice."

He warned, however, that there were no guarantees, and no one to give them the guarantees, that the conference would achieve anything for the Palestinians. He asked if there were guarantees that Palestine would be liberated when the Palestinians took up the armed struggle or when the intifada started.

"Who is to guarantee? There is no guarantee. But we must struggle politically inside the conference, with the intifada and with the armed struggle through every phase we pass," Dr. Shaath stressed. He added that if the Palestinian leadership sees that they are not achieving anything from the conference, or if asked to make concessions they reject, "we leave the conference and continue the struggle otherwise."

The Palestinian official said that the Palestinians should take advantage of current circumstances in the world, saying that they were now entering a new era.

"But this conference is not for free. There is a strategic opportunity, a strategic gap that we should breathe through to achieve something, in addition to continued struggle on all fronts," he said.

Dr. Shaath explained to the audience that the PLO had tried to achieve "victories" before the convening of the Madrid conference next Wednesday, but failed.

He said that the organisation had tried to take advantage of the new circumstances in the past weeks and received an independent invitation to the conference, to give the chance to the Palestinian leadership to personally name its delegation and impose its own conditions before the start of the negotiations, "but the door was closed."

Some Palestinians have been critical of the PLO for making concessions to Israeli conditions, mainly because only Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip make up the Palestinian delegation, without representation from Jerusalem. The PLO also gave in trying to put a stop to continued Israeli settlements in the occupied territories before the negotiations started. Dr. Shaath added that it was clear to everyone that the Palestinian delegates were appointed by the PLO and that it would continue to take instructions from the organisation.

"But we did not make one single important concession before the negotiations," Dr. Shaath stated. "We did not compromise on the right of the Palestinian people for self-determination on their soil or the independent Palestinian state, in confederation with Jordan, with Jerusalem as its capital."

"We did not give up on our right to achieve complete Israeli withdrawal from the land it occupied in 1967, and we did not give up our right for Israel to stop the Jewish settlements immediately," Dr. Shaath went on. "But we could not achieve these goals before the negotiations, and if we did, they would have been victories."

He described as an achievement, however, the American letter of assurances which, he said, had stated that Jerusalem was considered part of Security Council Resolution 242, that is, part of the Israeli occupied territory after 1967.

The Palestinian official went on to say that Israel was no longer needed as a strategic ally to the U.S. after the Gulf war, and that peace and stability were necessary for the U.S.

fact that the U.S. was suffering a large financial deficit in its budget.

"The Americans could not even afford to finance its war in the Gulf," Dr. Shaath commented. He also noted that Europe had provided the world with \$29 billion in aid in 1990, as compared to \$7 billion from the U.S.

He predicted that the Israeli lobby in Washington would crumble, and described the group as a "strategic lobby that is an American trick created by American administrations to use as an excuse to its Arab allies that it could not compromise on Palestine."

Dr. Shaath warned, however, that the U.S. was not an ally that could be trusted and its "enemies of today will not become her friends tomorrow." He also warned that Israel could propose a new role for itself that could be in the U.S. interest in the region.

Dr. Shaath also stressed that the American powerful role in the world after the Gulf war and after the end of the cold war with the Soviet Union was only temporary, that it would "last five to ten years." He attributed his argument to the

fact that the U.S. was suffering a large financial deficit in its budget.

"The Americans could not even afford to finance its war in the Gulf," Dr. Shaath commented. He also noted that Europe had provided the world with \$29 billion in aid in 1990, as compared to \$7 billion from the U.S.

Europe's role

Dr. Shaath's lecture, in fact, focused on Europe's role concerning the Palestinian question. He stressed that for Europe to achieve its interests in the region, it felt it had to get closer to the Palestinian question and did so by mainly standing by the rights of the Palestinians.

He said that the European Community's (EC) aid to Palestinians in the Israeli occupied territories in 1991 alone far exceeded that which was provided by all the Arab countries together.

"The Europeans gave \$350 million in Palestinian aid in 1991 alone, and that was only

the amount that was actually received by the Palestinians and not just what was allocated by the EC," Dr. Shaath said, adding that Israel had placed obstacles in front of the Palestinians in getting the full aid allocated by the EC.

He added that \$130 million of that amount, 70 per cent of which was given by Germany and Britain alone, was allocated as direct aid to Palestinians. The aid usually goes to UNRWA or to Palestinian institutions that support local projects. Dr. Shaath said that the aid was contributed by both governments and the public. "In Italy alone, 2,000 families send monthly aid in the form of adopting Palestinian children," he said.

Dr. Shaath also said that the EC's financial role included the support of free trade, of direct Palestinian exports to the EC countries and placed trade restrictions against Israel until they forced the Jewish state to permit direct Palestinian export of citrus fruit to the EC countries without passing through the Israeli authorities.

first. He added that the group also froze a scientific agreement with Israel to pressure it into reopening the Arab universities which were closed by the Israeli authorities during the intifada, but that these efforts were delayed by the Gulf crisis.

"Despite all the American pressure, Europe was the only party that directly placed restrictions against Israel and succeeded in achieving its aims," Dr. Shaath stressed.

He recalled a discussion he personally had with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar three months ago during which Dr. Shaath asked him why the Fourth Geneva Convention was not implemented in the occupied territories to protect the Palestinians there. Dr. Shaath quoted Mr. de Cuellar as saying: "I wrote to all the countries that signed the Geneva Convention agreements and only 32 of the 165 signatory countries responded. Not one single Arab, Asian or African country responded." Dr. Shaath said that all the EC countries and other

European countries were the only ones to respond to a call for protection of Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

Dr. Shaath said that Europe was important for the Palestinians in the near future because "it will head the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Conventions" in the occupied territories. He referred to a conference due to be held in Budapest next month dealing with this issue and which will be headed by the EC.

"And if we can protect our people during the peace conference through Europe's forcing Israel to implement the Geneva Convention agreements — it means stopping deportations, the demolishing of homes, arbitrary measures and the building of Jewish settlements — then we have achieved a lot as we negotiate in this conference," he added.

Dr. Shaath described the Middle East as the "southern flank" of Europe and said its stability depended on stability in the Middle East.

"Many would say that Europe does what the U.S.

asks it to do. This may be true, but Europe always played a positive and practical — not just theoretical — role concerning the Palestinian question in order to achieve a distinguished role in the Middle East and North Africa," Dr. Shaath said.

He added that Europe saw in "the independent Palestinian state in confederation with Jordan a Singapore of the Middle East." The official said that Europe saw in the Palestinian and Jordanian people 300,000 university graduates who "have great abilities in engineering, electronics and computers."

"They see an opportunity of development here and see themselves as political and economic allies," Dr. Shaath said. He added that in the last nine months he talked to every European foreign minister. "They don't see beggars in us, but see an ability and future capability," he insisted, adding that the "temporary American hegemony" would end with a pluralistic world, with Europe as a major power.



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European defence plans in turmoil as NATO, EC summits draw near

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Plans to set up a European defence policy for the 21st century are starting to fall apart in acrimony and confusion, with just a few weeks to go before NATO and the European Community hold vital summit meetings.

The argument, of baffling complexity even to those involved in the negotiations, springs from one question: Will the United States and Western Europe remain partners in politics, trade and defence, or will the traditional bonds that have linked them for decades snap and give way to rivalry?

Competing views on this underlie the debate over how far, if at all, the European Community should take over some of the defence responsibilities that have always been the preserve of the U.S.-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

"It's a very messy debate. There are differences which are completely irreconcilable, the way things stand at the moment," said Simon Lunn, deputy secretary-general of the Brussels-based North Atlantic Assembly.

France, Germany and Spain

threw fuel on the fire on Friday with a controversial meeting in Paris at which they called again for a common defence policy within a future federal EC.

They agreed elements of a joint foreign and security policy should be decided by majority voting within the community. Britain, Denmark and Ireland regard this area as the sole preserve of national governments.

Some EC members denounced the Paris meeting as an attempt by heavyweights France and Germany to circumvent discussions among all 12 members and force the issue before a December summit of EC leaders in the Dutch town of Maastricht.

France has taken the lead because it resents U.S. leadership of NATO and wants independent European defences as part of greater economic and political integration.

To confuse matters further, Britain and Italy — the two other major EC states — launched a proposal of their own 10 days ago endorsing a community foreign and defence policy as long as it did nothing to undermine NATO.

NATO officials publicly welcome moves toward closer European integration, arguing that a

more coherent policy will lift some of the cold war defence burden imposed on the United States. But they are also worried the EC might go too far.

Washington, concerned about losing its influence over the alliance, has repeatedly said it will not accept any arrangement that undermines NATO, marginalises any of its members or duplicates its functions.

"We've spelled out our views and we stick to them," said one U.S. official at NATO. Washington is backed by NATO members Turkey, Norway and Iceland, which are not part of the community.

The unspoken warning is that a "go-it-alone" policy by the Europeans could lead the United States to bring its troops home, thus breaking the trans-Atlantic ties at the heart of NATO.

Washington already plans to withdraw half of the 300,000 U.S. troops stationed in Europe now the cold war is over.

"You have two extreme views — the French and the Americans — and various other countries who seem to be somewhere in the middle and not very clear," said Mr. Lunn.

Although all but one of the EC member states are also in NATO, the debate is difficult to follow because some countries seem to contradict themselves.

Germany professes deep commitment to the trans-Atlantic bond, but has also worried Washington and London by endorsing France's ferociously independent line.

"The Germans want an American wife and a French mistress," said one NATO official. "The problem is that it is impossible to sleep with both of them."

NATO, due to hold a summit in Rome early next month to set out a new role for itself in the post-cold war world, has also shown signs of confusion.

Alliance foreign ministers agreed a lengthy statement on the so-called "European defence identity" at a Copenhagen meeting in June, which officials say left many questions unresolved.

"It basically pleased everyone by saying: 'The Europeans can do what they like, so long as they don't meddle with NATO,'" said one senior alliance official. "We still haven't resolved the basic contradiction inherent in that statement."

Democracy — an idea whose time has come, and maybe gone

By I.F. Abdullah

THE system of American democracy is very rigid, static, and very difficult to change. This becomes clear when every new president begins to tackle the national debt issue and fails. No congressman or any entitled group or state is willing to compromise any of the money or benefits they have for the sake of the country as a whole as obviously nobody is willing to do such "sacrifice". The president quickly realises it is a losing battle and the only other option an administration has to bail out the system and cut the deficit is by grabbing from elsewhere, resulting in a war where the goods are secured from some other country.

Western democracies are all hostages to this phenomenon, and they now team up and become allies when it comes to the "heist" from elsewhere. Democracy is now working to the detriment of its constituency, and the "tyranny of the majority" in a democracy prevents any changes since a majority always has a stake and benefit from the status quo which allowed the formation of such a majority in the first place.

Democracy is advocated to the Third World by "well meaning" countries with established demo-

cracies. These entities fully realise that when democracy takes root, countries become very difficult to manage and political systems become vulnerable to outside influence buying their way through ever available pundits at the expense of the national interest. Democracy is a ticket to destabilise and control countries, and maintain chaos under its guise.

Democracy can lead to indecision and immobilise progress. It should be noted that the Arab World, and especially the Palestinians, are victims of Israeli democracy, since any decision on settlements can result in the downfall of the then current government. The whole country goes into indecision for sometime until a new government is operational again. This inability to make decisions has been exploited by all parties in Israel to maintain the status quo and sustain an inflexible policy.

Many factors required for a successful democracy are missing in the Arab countries: there aren't enough divergent special interests to counteract each other; there aren't enough large scale establishments with hundreds of thousands of employees to create powerful unions, and there is substantial fragmentation

among the citizenry, except for the dominant party. On another front, the media is not profitable enough to maintain independence, and there is substantial vulnerability to outside interests and influence offering personal gain at the expense of national interests.

Democracy can be substituted in Third World countries by "freedom of action." In a world where ideology is becoming secondary and capitalism is becoming the main preoccupation and aim, very few captivating motives remain.

Whether freedom of action in a stable environment, when granted by a benevolent government attuned to the interests and desires of its citizenry, can be the necessary ingredient for progress, especially when stability is achieved through "dominance of a party or clan, or a tribal collective government, leads in time to a 'western-style democracy' (regardless of its merits), while maintaining a stable government, is very difficult to prove, as the experience of Lebanon, India, many countries of Latin America, and the Soviet Union has shown.

Freedom of action may be the realistic expectation, with ambition fulfilled and challenge derived from personal endeavours,

achievements, and business and professional successes in lieu of ideological political expression. Until such time when national experiments can develop workable methods of achieving the goals of textbook democracy within the selfish interest struggle of groups, individuals, and ruling establishments, stability remains a powerful asset for nations. The inequities inherent in maintaining such stability must be weighed against chaos, capital flight, and economic self-destruction. Recent history has been very positive, and in an age of instant communication, awareness and open societies, governments could not sustain the iron rule or forcible control of societies and have started to answer to the needs of their population in civilised and internationally accepted norms.

Real functional democracy is much like a luxury: only the wealthy can afford it. In the scope of Third World countries, very few are the wealthy, and they can afford to buy it beyond their own borders.

The writer is an architect and real estate broker in Houston, Texas, U.S. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Sharing the most precious resource in the Middle East

By Ali Z. Ghazawi

WATER security will be one of the most important items to be tackled two weeks after the projected Madrid peace talks, on Nov. 13. The security of water in the Middle East has been a constant source of friction between the various countries in the region. Water flowing from the rivers that originate in non-Arab countries accounts for 65 per cent of the region's water supply.

Thomas Stauffer, an international water consultant, wrote for the Arab Research Centre symposium on water, held in Amman in 1984, that it would cost Israel about \$1.2 to \$1.8 billion per year to supply its population with the necessary water requirements by employing large-scale sea water desalination plants to replace the water it takes from the occupied territories, which costs \$2 billion annually.

Two-thirds of Israel's water resources is secured within its 1948 borders while the remaining one-third is pumped from the West Bank. Of the West Bank's 615 million cubic metres (MCM), more than 80 per cent is consumed by 120,000 Jewish settlers and the remaining is used by 1.2 million Palestinians. Jewish settlers' per capita consumption ranges between 640 to 1,480 cubic metres per year. In contrast, Palestinian per capita consumption ranges between 107 to 156 cubic metres per year.

According to the Johnston Plan, three countries — Jordan, Syria and Israel — have to share the Jordan River water. However, Israel diverted the Jordan River's water at Lake Tiberias through its national water carrier to central Israel and the Negev Desert.

Another common water source between the three countries is the Yarmouk River. The Yarmouk River water flow has been reduced to less than 385 MCM annually and distributed between Jordan, Syria and Israel, each taking 35 per cent, 39 per cent and 26 per cent respectively. Jordan is transferring its share from Yarmouk River to the Jordan Valley, which provides the Kingdom with more than 40 per cent of its agricultural produce, through the King Abdullah canal or irrigation purposes.

Water is a precious commodity in the Middle East because of the arid climate of the region. One of the main Israeli reason in occupying South Lebanon was to control the Litani River, which originates in the Bekaa Valley. A wide-range scheme to transfer water to underground pipes from the Litani River to Israel has been under implementation for some time now.

Furthermore, Israeli water engineers have been conducting water surveys in Ethiopia and Uganda in order to divert part of the Nile water by building several dams before it reaches Egypt. It is worth mentioning that Israeli policymakers have been eager to

divert part of the Nile to irrigate the Negev Desert. Such scheme would provide Israel with sufficient water resources to settle and inhabit the desert.

Within this context one wonders what are the most effective methods to deal with the water security issue during the upcoming

peace parley. Here is an attempt to put forward a few suggestions which could be of some help:

— First, emphasis should be placed on sharing the technology in water discovery and uses within the region. This can be accomplished on bilateral basis with financial and technical assistance from the United States, the European Community and Japan.

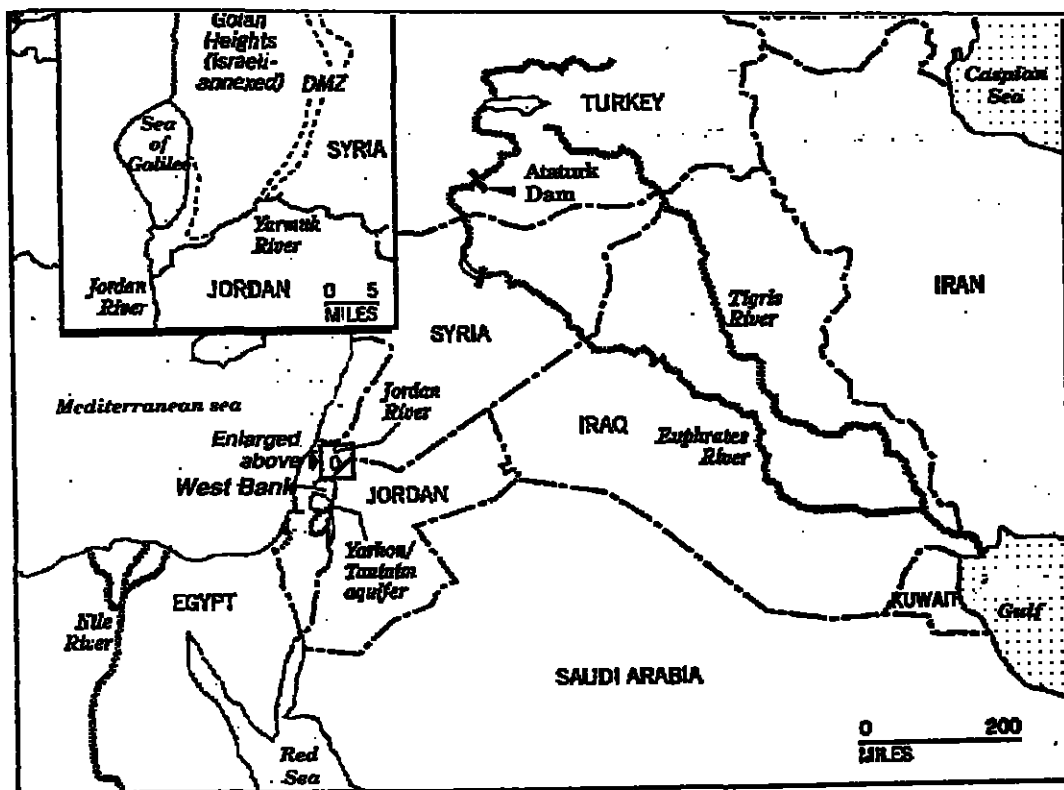
— Second, a joint large-scale sea water desalination plant

should be built as an incentive for a peaceful settlement. The Gulf Cooperation Council states can supply fuel free or at reduced prices to run such a plant.

— Third, since most of the Middle East countries suffer from acute water shortages, an agreement on crop patterns should be

— Fifth, a regional water bank should be established, where the Middle East states can collect and save water during the rainy season to use in times of shortage.

The writer is an economic researcher. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.



signed. Furthermore, the planting of such water-consuming crops as cotton and rice should be eliminated. (Since none of the Middle East countries has achieved food security so far, the elimination of certain crops should not pose a problem). Cooperation and coordination should again be emphasised.

— Fourth, all parties should stop subsidising water prices in order to eliminate excessive water usage.

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

**Ministry of Public Works & Housing
Government Tenders Directorate
Central Tenders announcement
Invitation to Tenders No.(142/91)**

Local contractors classified in the field of water and irrigation classification grade first and in the field of buildings classification grade first or second in the two classification together or joint venture and contractors are nationals of the member states of the European Economic Community in the same fields and classification who are interested in participating in this tender are requested to contact the Government Tenders Directorate at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Amman, Jordan to receive tender documents starting from 26/10/1991 and accordance with the following terms:

a. Project Description:

The Water Authority intends to collect water from Murhib wells No. s (1,2,3 & 4) to reservoir (1000)m³ in Murhib Area, and transmit the water by pumping to Awajan existing reservoir (550)m³, and Berain proposed reservoir (1000)m³ capacity.

b. Work load will be considered in awarding.

c. Tender price J.D.200 non-refundable.

d. Last date for purchase of tender documents on November 13th, 1991.

e. Offers shall be submitted to Government Directorate before 13:30 local time on Saturday 23th. of November 1991.

Deputy Chairman Central Tenders Committee
Government Tenders Directorate

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A-1400 Vienna

Austria

Fax: (0222) 230 74 87

N.B. i) First priority in appointment will be given to fully qualified staff members; second priority to fully qualified external Palestinians.

ii) Normally many applications are received. The agency will contact only those applicants in whom it has a further interest.

مكتبة الناصر

Masri meets Palestinian delegations

(Continued from page 1)

Reporters were kept away from the hall where the meetings took place. Later the spokesman of the Palestinian negotiating team, Dr. Hanan

Ashrawi, said that Mr. Masri met with representatives from inside and outside the occupied territories. She gave no details but described the meeting "as productive and informative."

Arafat to stay out of peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

real peace, but we have to work now for it... we may succeed to achieve real peace in this area," he said.

The interview for the current events programme "Fozzer and Daghine" was broadcast live to some parts of the United States.

Mr. Arafat said Thursday he was prepared to discuss a ceasefire with Israel to help along moves towards Middle East peace.

But the PLO leader, whose organisation is barred from attending the historic peace conference in Madrid next week, said Israel will have to talk to him first.

"We are ready to examine positively any official offer (from Israel) with view to mutual arrangements between the two parties in order to facilitate a peaceful outcome," Mr. Arafat told a news conference in Tunis Thursday.

He was responding to a question from Yuzi Mahamini, Middle East editor of the Tel Aviv daily Yedioth Aharonoth, who asked whether the PLO would consider goodwill gestures such as a ceasefire to help the peace process.

"Let them ask me the question officially, first of all, and I will

reply. I am president of the State of Palestine and not of a charitable association," Mr. Arafat replied.

"So far they (Israeli leaders) have said no to the PLO."

Mr. Arafat left open the question of whether any ceasefire would include a halt to the intifada in the occupied territories, which is now nearing the end of its fourth year. "The cause of the intifada is the (Israeli) occupation," he said.

He suggested that a ceasefire would involve a halt to armed attacks on Israel from outside and inside the occupied territories, a halt to new Jewish settlements in the territories and the release of prisoners.

Israel puts the number of Palestinians in its military jails at more than 8,500.

Mr. Arafat also said that as part of any peace accord the PLO would favour deployment of multinational forces inside a future Palestinian state along its border with Israel "for as long as the Israeli people think it necessary to ensure their security."

"It would also be a security for us the Palestinians," he added.

Mr. Arafat said that in the long term the two sides should establish normal relations, including free movement of people.

"We discussed strategies and brought each other up-to-date," he said.

The basis of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating strategy has already been worked out by His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat while technical teams from both sides are currently formulating working papers on the various aspects of negotiations.

PLO officials said that the agreement with Jordan stressed that the joint delegation at the conference will seek a solution based on Israeli withdrawal from all of the occupied territories and the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

They said that the agreement specified that the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation will come after the Palestinians are able to practise their right to self-determination.

Although the exact wording of the agreement was not made public, it is aimed at overcoming U.S. and Israeli opposition to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Jordan and the PLO have also agreed that they will press for an immediate halt to Israeli settlements in the occupied territories prior to the start of the bilateral talks and that

progress should be made on the Palestinian issue before proceeding to the multilateral talks.

The positions of both Jordan and the PLO were given a big boost on Thursday when a meeting of ministers of foreign affairs in Damascus declared the Arab side will seek an immediate halt to the Israeli settlements and a complete Israeli withdrawal from all of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

The Damascus meeting, which had the blessing of both Gulf states and the Arab Maghreb Union, apparently aimed at countering declared Israeli intentions to secure its acceptance in the Arab World without making a territorial compromise.

There were no strong indications, however, that the Damascus declaration amounted to a full-fledged commitment by all parties or an agreement that the Arab side will demand the postponement of the date of the multilateral talks.

The multilateral talks are supposed to start two weeks after the opening of the conference.

A senior PLO official, who attended the Damascus meeting, said Friday that practical steps were still needed to ensure a unified Arab position.

"We all want to see real progress concerning the issues of Israeli with-

drawal and the settlements so that we can seriously discuss regional security and economic arrangements," said PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo.

"But to practically implement these objectives we will continue the coordination prior to the peace conference," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

The Damascus meeting involved the beginning of a reconciliation process involving both Jordan and the PLO with Saudi Arabia. Jordan's Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and Mr. Qaddoumi met separately and informally with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal for the first time since the Gulf war.

Arab sources close to the meeting told the Jordan Times that Prince Saud stressed Saudi Arabia's political support for the Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating position, but there were no commitment for the resumption of Saudi financial aid to either Jordan or the PLO.

Jordanian sources said Dr. Abu Jaber was happy with both the results of the Arab meeting and his exchange with the Saudi minister. "The latter helped to clear the atmosphere between the two countries following the strain of the Gulf crisis," one source said. "It is a step forward, and we are hoping for more of the same," the source added.

Jordan finalises its delegates

(Continued from page 1)

The highest authority on the negotiations by the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee will be the consultative body under the joint command of King Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Technical committees, comprising senior government officials who have had decades of experience with problems and issues spawning from the Arab-Israeli conflict, are working on finalising the details of presenting the Jordanian case in Madrid and enabling the actual negotiating team to get down to business in bilateral talks with Israel.

Dr. Majali, who has served as minister of health and education as well as a special advisor to the King in the past, will assume charge of the bilateral negotiations after the opening session of the conference.

"Dr. Abu Jaber will head the team to the ceremonies at Madrid but Dr. Majali will remain with the negotiating team when talks break into bilateral negotiations," a source told the Jordan Times.

The naming of a "technical team" to the peace conference came after speculations that a "national team" comprising political heavyweights of Jordan was being planned, but sources explained that the need for a national team was not eliminated under the present arrangements.

"The team of negotiators does not have the jurisdiction to make national decisions but has to come back to the consultative body and the cabinet on every step they make," said one of the sources.

"Therefore there is no need for a national team at the negotiating table because the final decision

will be made here in Amman," the senior government source said.

"They have to be specialists in their field to conduct specialised negotiations on the issues which will be proposed during the course of talks," the source added.

Sources also rejected speculations that Jordan would upgrade the level of its representatives to the peace conference to balance it with the high-profile Israeli delegation, which will be led by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The two teams within the delegation are expected to conduct several coordination meetings during the next two days before leaving to Madrid Monday.

The joint delegation is also expected to meet with King Hussein for final consultations before the conference.

Resignation to end differences

(Continued from page 1)

Mafraq, was unavailable for comment Friday, but in comments to the international press, he asserted that his resignation was also related to his discontentment over the composition of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

"I have a certain position which differs from that of the government," Mr. Dughni was quoted as saying by the Associated Press. "I am not against the peace conference, but I am against the form of participation," added the deputy, a member of the eight-member Democratic bloc in the Lower House.

He was also quoted as saying that he disagreed with the government's economic policy, including its decision to dispose of the government's shares in the private sector.

"There may be dozens of reasons behind Mr. Dughni's resignation, but the main among them is differences with other cabinet members, including the prime minister himself," said the cabinet source. "It is a long story of uneasy working relationship in the council of ministers."

According to sources close to the cabinet members and others, the proverbial straw came over conflicting stands adopted by Mr. Masri and Mr. Dughni over the contentious issue of government involvement in the administration of private enterprises, which are majority owned by the government.

The sources said Mr. Masri and Mr. Dughni recently clashed over whether the government should use its influence in the appointment of a director general of one enterprise which is majority owned by the Social Security Corporation (SSC), whose chairman is by law the labour minister, in this case Mr. Dughni himself.

Controversy still surrounds the argument between the prime minister and Mr. Dughni, since neither was available for comment and no independent confirmation of what had actually happened could be obtained by the Jordan Times.

The debacle might have served as the straw that broke the council's back in Mr. Dughni's term as minister, but the build-up to it has been in the making for some time although little has been said about it in the media.

The business community, mostly industrialists, had been disenchanted with Mr. Dughni's policy of summary replacements of foreign workers by Jordanians as one of the key solutions to addressing the mounting unemployment in the kingdom.

The industrialists had argued that they were suffering from dramatic decline in productivity and efficiency as a result of sudden departures of key foreign workers and had appealed to the prime minister for a gradual process of replacing those workers rather than blanket refusal to renew work permits for them

and causing sudden disruptions in production.

On the human level, employers of foreign labour had argued, many of the foreign workers who came under the Labour Ministry axe had been in Jordan for many years and filled in a key slot in the Jordanian economy left vacant by the Kingdom's skilled personnel who opted for more lucrative jobs in the Gulf states.

"If Jordan can argue that it was unfair for Kuwait to summarily dismiss Jordanians and Palestinians who had been there for decades, then the same argument can also be applied in the case of foreign workers in Jordan," noted one of them. "Besides no labour minister can ignore the distinction between skilled members of any workforce, such as university professors, and manual labourers and put them in the same category when issuing work permits to them," he added.

The human aspect also weakens our case and argument for retaining our expatriates abroad."

At the same time, proponents of the "Jordanisation" of the labour work argue that the process should start with weeding out "dispensable foreign elements" employed in Jordan, "which is what Mr. Dughni has been trying to do."

"But singling out foreigners and replacing them with Jordanians is not the answer," commented a prominent businessman. "The Ministry of Labour, along with all other concerned government departments, should work towards creating more job opportunities rather than focusing on skilled foreign workers who have contributed a lot to Jordan's economy over the years."

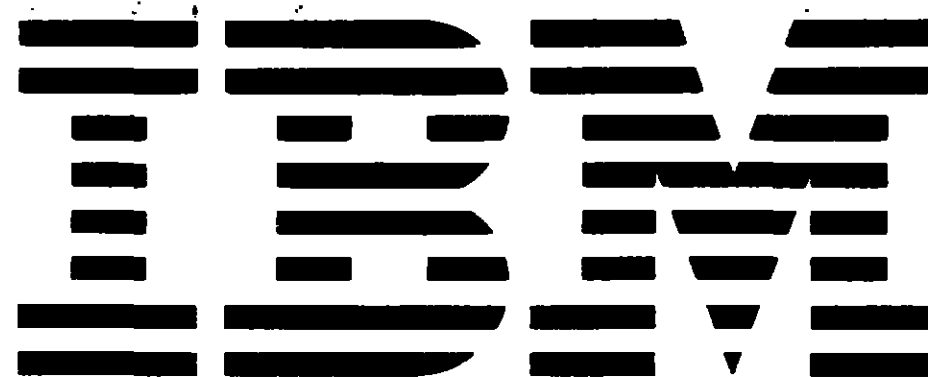
On a different level, Mr. Dughni was known to have been publicly pursuing means to secure funds for the Development and Employment Fund, although, at least technically, it was the ministries of planning and finance as well as the Industrial Development Bank which were directly involved in the fund, which was proposed and partially financed by the World Bank.

The fund, which is slowly taking shape after securing commitments from the European Community and other external sources, will seek to finance self-support projects initiated by skilled Jordanians.

Economists argue, however, that the fund, one of the self-admitted centre-pieces of Mr. Dughni's approach to reducing unemployment, could not have addressed the unemployment problem by any significant measure of success since the target amount is \$16 million while recent figures released by the Planning Ministry indicates that the Kingdom needs at least \$2 billion to create enough jobs to absorb the unemployed in the Kingdom.



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Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Thu 23/10/1991	Tokyo Close Thu 24/10/1991
Sterling Pound	1.6990	1.7077
Deutsche Mark	1.7115	1.7055
Swiss Franc	1.4960	1.4903
French Franc	5.8370	5.8125
Japanese Yen	131.68	131.33
European Currency Unit	1.1965	1.2020

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.37	5.37	5.56
Sterling Pound	10.56	10.43	10.12	10.06
Deutsche Mark	9.15	9.25	9.31	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.12	8.25	8.18	8.18
French Franc	8.87	9.06	9.12	9.18
Japanese Yen	6.46	6.18	5.90	5.68
European Currency Unit	9.68	9.87	9.87	9.81

Previous Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	380.85	7.05	Silver	4.11	0.091

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6660	0.6880
Sterling Pound	1.1683	1.1741
Deutsche Mark	0.4014	0.4034
Swiss Franc	0.4592	0.4615
French Franc	0.1177	0.1183
Japanese Yen	0.5277	0.5245
Dutch Guilder	0.3562	0.3580
Swedish Krona	0.1102	0.1108
Italian Lira	0.0537	0.0540
Belgian Franc	0.01951	0.01961

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7890	1.7950
Lebanese Lira	0.0775	0.0777
Saudi Riyal	0.1826	0.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1862	0.1870
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7560	1.7650
UAE Dirham	0.1862	0.1870
Greek Drachma	0.3640	0.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4450	1.4425

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	22/10/1991 Close	23/10/1991 Close
All-Share	124.07	124.01
Banking Sector	105.24	104.67
Insurance Sector	125.11	125.21
Industry Sector	152.72	153.58
Services Sector	132.24	131.29

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7135/45	U.S. dollar	0.5830/40
One U.S. dollar	1.1260/65	Canadian dollar	0.7050/60
	1.6960/76	Deutsche mark	0.4950/60
	1.9112/22	Dutch guilder	0.3600/10
	1.4865/75	Swiss franc	0.7500/10
	34.91/95	Belgian franc	0.0235/40
	5.7875/25	French franc	0.0165/70
	1267/1268	Italian lire	200.00/10
	131.20/30	Japanese yen	100.00/10
	6.1820/70	Swedish crown	1.0000/10
	6.6480/630	Norwegian crown	1.0000/10
	6.5725/75	Danish crown	1.0000/10
One ounce of gold	361.90/362.40	U.S. dollars	361.90/362.40

Changes in law were misunderstood; Jordan maintains liberal approach

Minister clarifies foreign investment policy

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Contrary to common belief, the Lower House of Parliament has not discouraged foreign investment in the Kingdom and the door remains wide open for foreign investors to come in, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb.

The controversy, kindled by Lower House amendments to a draft law on foreign investments in Jordan, is much ado about nothing since the government has not changed its policy of encouraging foreign investors and simplifying related legal procedures, he said.

If anything, Mr. Abul Ragheb adds, the government has enhanced and improved the climate for foreign investment in the Kingdom and some of the regulations governing such enter-

prise are in fact more liberal than in some other Third World countries.

"Many potential investors have misunderstood the amendments to the law as voted by the Lower House" in early August, Mr. Abul Ragheb told the Jordan Times in a recent interview.

The very idea of introducing the draft law was to reduce bureaucracy and what the Lower House did was to incorporate elements which added to the legal procedures governing permissions for foreign investment in the country, he said.

"What we wanted was to eliminate the involvement of the council of ministers in approving projects with foreign investment," Mr. Abul Ragheb explained. "The amendment to article six of the law now states that the council of ministers have to approve such projects, thus retaining the status quo."

The original draft of the law said investment from "foreign" investors in projects in the areas of industry, tourism, health, agriculture, housing, mineral exploration, media, education, telecommunications and construction could be approved by the minister of industry and trade. The amendment deleted mineral exploration, media, education, and telecommunications from the areas where foreign investors could come and change the reference from "foreign" investors to "Arab" investors for projects that could be approved by the minister and stipulated that "non-Arab" investments should be cleared by the council of ministers.

The amendments do not prohibit "foreign" investments in these areas, Mr. Abul Ragheb pointed out. In essence, he said, a foreign investor could own 100 per cent of projects in these fields as long as they had approval from the council of ministers upon the recommendation of the minister of trade and industry.

Mr. Abul Ragheb referred to a recent agreement concluded between the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and an Indian firm to set up a phosphoric acid plant in the south and said the JPMC will have only 40 per cent equity in the project while the Indian company will own 60 per cent.

Foreign investment in the fields of contracting and transportation — air, land and

sea — is restricted to 49 per cent ownership but after approval by the council of ministers.

Mr. Abul Ragheb noted that these areas "represent the bread and butter of Jordanians" and supported the argument that foreign investments in these fields should not exceed 49 per cent.

Voted down by the House also were provisions allowing for foreign investors to set up small businesses and handicraft industries and for foreigners to participate in tenders and start projects as well as conduct technical studies if the investor transfers a minimum of JD 25,000 (or convertible equivalent in other currencies) to Jordan.

Other provisions in the law left unchanged by the House — allow for foreign equipment, machinery and technical assistance as well as trade marks and patent rights to be brought into Jordan and considered as capital investment after their value has been determined by experts appointed by the minister of trade and industry.

The law liberalises foreign participation in dealings in the Amman stock market (as long as the volume of shares purchased by a foreign investor does not exceed 49 per cent of the total equity of the concerned company) and eases the way for repatriation of capital and profits.

The provisions allow profits derived by foreign investors from Jordanian projects to be reinvested and consi-

dered as capital.

The law also offers immunity to projects with foreign investment against seizures or confiscation except through a legal process conducted by a court of law.

The overriding stipulation in the law is that the foreign investor should transfer the funds in any convertible currency to Jordan through a licensed Jordanian financial institution. This provision is clearly aimed at blocking the flight of Jordanian capital disguised as foreign investment.

The amendments to the law came after razor-thin votes — in one case 29 in favour and 28 against — in the House after what was interpreted by observers as an oversight on the part of the ministers-cum-deputies to turn up for the session. Only 57 of the 80 members of the House attended the session, but Islamist deputies and their supporters turned up in strength to incorporate the amendments.

"Six deputies who are ministers were not present during the session," noted one observer. "If they were present, there was no way these amendments could have been incorporated since the margin of votes in favour did not exceed two."

The main contention of the Islamists was that the draft law, in its original form, would have allowed "hostile powers" to invest in Jordan and gradually gain control of key economic sectors in the Kingdom. But the net shape of the law after the amend-



Ali Abul Ragheb

ments has only added to the bureaucracy in contrast to the government's objective of addressing complaints that too many legal procedures discourage potential investors, economists say.

Furthermore, analysts say, if the goal of Islamists was to block "hostile investment" in Jordan then they have not succeeded since the council of ministers still is empowered to allow foreign investments after scrutiny.

Observers point out that the amended law has not been fully endorsed by parliament since the Upper House (Senate) has not voted and approved it. "It is highly possible that the Senate would add its own amendments and send it back to the Lower House, prompting a new round of votes when the government could muster majority and reverse the original Lower House amendments," one observer pointed out.

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Serbia rejects revised EC plan

THE HAGUE (R) — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic Friday rejected a revised European Community (EC) plan for a loose association of independent Yugoslav republics.

"This proposal, with this content does not lead to stability and peace but opens the way for sure to new instability and tension," he said in a speech released to journalists.

The European Community-sponsored peace talks on Yugoslavia reopened Friday, with presidents of the country's six republics attending, to discuss a plan for a loose association of independent republics.

Conference Chairman Lord Carrington said on British Radio the EC should keep trying to find a political solution to the conflict. The start of the meeting was delayed by an hour by talks between Mr. Milosevic and Lord Carrington.

The latest peace effort has been shaken by a boycott of the talks by the Serbian bloc of the collective Yugoslav Presidency and by continued fighting in the crumbling federation despite further EC ceasefire attempts.

Former British Foreign Secretary Carrington, asked about the peace process by British Broad-

casting Corporation (BBC) radio, said Friday morning: "No. Of course I'm not confident. It would be foolish to be confident. But what I am sure of is that one has to go on trying, because if we fail the consequences for the people of Yugoslavia are going to be perfectly terrible in terms of human misery."

The EC is to present a fleshed-out version of a plan agreed by all the republics except Serbia at last week's session of the conference. It foresees a looser association for the six republics and two provinces, which group 23.5 million ethnically and religiously diverse people.

The new 11-page document circulated among journalists Friday sets out the same general terms, talking of "a free association" of sovereign and independent republics within the existing borders.

The draft calls for autonomy for certain national or ethnic groups where they form a majority within republics and adds that such areas must be permanently demilitarized.

Meanwhile, a Yugoslav army pilot defected in his fighter plane to neighbouring Austria Friday, Austrian Radio reported.

The pilot landed his Soviet-

built MiG in the southern town of Klagenfurt shortly after 10 a.m. (0900 GMT). It was the first defection of a pilot with his aircraft in the war between the Serbian-led army and the break-away Republic of Croatia.

"I was informed by the security services at Klagenfurt that a Yugoslav army pilot had landed and was seeking political asylum," Interior Minister Franz Loesch said. "He is currently being questioned."

The Austrian News Agency (APA) said Austrian authorities identified the pilot as 33-year-old Rudolf P. His surname was withheld.

"I am a Croat and I don't want to fire on my own people," he was quoted by police as saying during questioning.

He told police his 50-minute defection flight began in Bihac, a strategic Yugoslav military base 100 kilometres south of the Croatian capital, in the neighbouring republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The MiG-21 was not armed, and its two extra fuel tanks were empty, said Austrians who examined the aircraft.

The Yugoslav army launched a new mortar attack on the historic Adriatic port of Dubrovnik Friday, just hours before the start of

peace talks with the European Community in the Hague, Croatian Radio said.

It said the army fired mortars on the eastern approaches to the city in the early hours of the morning despite a truce agreed with Croatian forces.

The radio gave no other details of the new attack on Dubrovnik but said that on Thursday shells fell on hotels and residential areas and landed near a hospital and in the city harbour.

It was not clear whether any historic buildings were hit. The advance on and bombardment of Dubrovnik prompted sharp Western criticism of the siege of an historic port deemed a world heritage site by the United Nations.

"The ceasefire was short-lived," said Simon Smith, head of a 200-strong European Community observer group in Yugoslavia, referring to a local truce supposed to have started at five p.m. (1600 GMT) Thursday.

In a new strain on the collapsing Yugoslav Federation, Serbs voted Thursday night to set up their own parliament in Bosnia-Herzegovina because the other main ethnic groups in the volatile republic have declared it a sovereign state.

Ukrainian parliament backs economic reforms

KIEV, Soviet Union (R) — The Ukrainian parliament changed its mind Friday and backed its government's plans for economic reform, including mass privatisation, after securing independence from Moscow.

One day after rejecting detailed government plans for a separate Ukrainian currency, central bank and customs, deputies voted 284 to 39 in favour of a two-paragraph resolution supporting the government's policy.

The parliament put off until next week a debate on proposals to close down the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

The economic policy resolution authorised minister of the second most important Soviet republic to implement "the privatisation of property, the liberalisation of prices, financial and agrarian reform and the social needs of the population."

"A lot of talking clearly went on last night and people appear to have calmed down," said Viktor Lisitsky, a Ukrainian member of the federal Soviet parliament.

"The government has been talking about privatisation for a month without achieving anything. The idea now is to get on with the business of setting up an economy after independence without fighting over specific plans," he added.

Radical deputies said Thursday the plan was not drafted properly and called for the resignation of Prime Minister Vitold Fokin.

Parliament's turbulent session came in the middle of a referendum campaign in which voters on Dec. 1 are likely to back the Ukraine's independence from Moscow.

National sentiment reached fever pitch after the failed hard-line coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in August and now even conservative deputies favour independence.

Local journalists said Mr. Fokin's removal could have delayed moves towards independence and this forced radicals to rethink their position and back the government.

On Chernobyl, deputies were expected to vote for complete closure of the station, site in 1986 of the world's worst nuclear accident, as soon as technically possible.

Deputy Vladimir Yavorivsky, an ecologist who has led the campaign for its closure, told deputies they would be fully informed of the consequences in the coming winter of removing the station from the Soviet power grid.

There was no indication whether deputies would debate the question of whether the Ukraine would adhere to an economic agreement binding together Soviet republics and the Kremlin following the collapse of the country's main institutions in August.

More looting in Zaire as West pressures Mobutu

KINSHASA (R) — Looting continued in Zaire's second city early Friday as Western pressure mounted on President Mobutu Sese Seko to make peace with the opposition.

Belgium told thousands of its nationals who have stayed in Zaire despite violent riots and looting to leave the former Belgian colony at once to avoid putting their lives in danger.

Diplomatic sources said soldiers and civilians were methodically pillaging houses in Lubumbashi, the capital of South East Shaba province.

At least 17 people were killed in the city this week after army-led looting began Monday, the medical aid charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said Thursday.

"There is a breakdown of authority in Lubumbashi. Looters are going methodically from one abandoned house to another," a Western diplomat said.

Most of the 1,400 remaining expatriates in Lubumbashi, the centre of Zaire's crucial mining industry, are being evacuated by Belgian paratroopers.

A convoy of foreigners would leave Friday by road to Zambia, diplomats said.

Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said in a statement Friday: "In the light of the latest developments in Zaire the government finds itself obliged to insist forcefully that all Belgians leave the country so as not to put their lives and security at risk."

"This evacuation should happen at once so that it can benefit from the final protection of Belgian soldiers in Zaire," the statement said.

Some 4,500 Belgians are still in Zaire. Before riots and pillaging plunged the country into chaos a month ago about 10,000 live

there. Both the United States and Western European countries piled pressure on Mr. Mobutu to pull back from the precipice and compromise with the main opposition parties backed by ordinary Zaireans.

The French Foreign Ministry said Friday that the remaining French nationals in Zaire are to be evacuated and immediately afterwards France will withdraw the troops it sent to keep the peace.

"Given the situation in Zaire, the French embassy in Kinshasa has been told to organise, in coordination with the Belgian authorities, all the necessary means to repatriate the whole of the French community in Zaire as soon as possible," said Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard.

"The French troops will be withdrawn as soon as the departure of French nationals has been guaranteed. Our cooperation (with Zaire) has been broken off," he added.

The capital was calm Friday morning, 24 hours after violent riots erupted in protest at Mr. Mobutu's choice of prime minister.

He picked veteran campaigner Mongu Diaka as Zaire's fourth premier in 1991, defying Western and domestic pressure to reappoint opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi.

In its toughest statement since the crisis erupted in Zaire last month with army-led riots, the United States effectively rejected Mr. Mongu as a credible premier.

"An effective and credible government in Zaire is an immediate necessity... such a government must be formed and led by prime minister having broad popular support," the State Department said Thursday.

Soviet Turkmenia set to declare independence

MOSCOW (R) — The conservative Soviet Central Asian Republic of Turkmenia is set this weekend to declare independence, making it one of the last republics to do so since August's failed hardline coup.

A popular referendum on whether the mainly desert republic should secede from Moscow is set for Saturday and most of the 3.6 million population are likely to vote yes.

Leaders in the republic, which relies heavily on its cotton crop, are set formally to declare independence Sunday.

Republican officials say the move towards secession from Moscow was sparked by the coup, after which all the republics except Turkmenia, Russia and Kazakhstan declared independence.

"Our population favoured maintaining the union, and is still for the preservation of a single economic space," said Anatoly Sokolov, deputy head of the Turkmenian mission in Moscow. "The referendum was caused

by a change in inter-republican relations. After the coup, central control collapsed. Ours was one of the last republics to decide on declaring independence," he said in an interview.

"Almost all the others have done it and we had to come to our own conclusion," he said.

A joint statement by President Saparmurad Niyozov and the Turkmenian parliament published last week said the republic could not be diverted from the path to independence and would create its own armed formations to defend its territory.

In a national referendum in March, over 95 per cent of Turkmenians voted to maintain the Soviet Union. The republic was one of the eight which last week signed a key economic agreement to prevent total economic collapse this winter.

Turkmenia has always been one of the most conservative republics, where local leaders have traditionally kept a tight grip on power and clamped on opposition movements.

U.K. Labour takes 6 point lead in poll

LONDON (AP) — The opposition Labour Party moved into a six-point lead over the Conservatives in an opinion poll released Thursday, another in a series of surveys showing a decline in support for the ruling party.

The National Opinion Polls (NOP) survey for the Independent newspaper and the Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) also showed that nearly twice as many people trust Labour to protect the National Health Service (NHS).

Labour's gain came largely at the expense of the Liberal Democrats, according to the poll.

The Tory rating at 39 per cent

was unchanged a similar NOP poll conducted last month, which gave Labour a 3 per cent lead.

NOP said that Labour received the support of 45 per cent of those polled, up from 42 per cent a month ago; the Conservatives held on to 39 per cent; the Liberal Democrats had 12 per cent, a two-point drop; others had 4 per cent, a loss of one.

It was the second poll in a week to show an advantage for Labour. A Harris poll for the Observer newspaper conducted last week put Labour seven points ahead of the Conservatives.

The polls are being watched because Prime Minister John Ma-

jo must call an election by July 1992.

NOP also found that only 30 per cent of voters share the government's view that "the NHS provides a better service today than it did 10 years ago."

Asked which party they trusted more to take the right decisions about the National Health Service, 55 per cent said Labour while 28 per cent replied Conservative, NOP said.

NOP interviewed 1,545 people Saturday, Sunday and Monday, a week after the end of the Tory Party conference and following renewed debate about the NHS. The margin of error was 3.5 per cent.

Regional strongman willing to take on Russia

GROZNY, USSR (AP) — Retired General Dzhokhar Dudayev has spent his career being bold — but his past exploits would pale in the face of what he's considering doing if he becomes president of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Republic.

The 46-year-old former bomber pilot is the best-known of four candidates for president in Sunday's elections. If he wins, he says, he would consider having his small enclave wage war against the gargantuan Russian Republic.

"I believe there is a realistic threat of war," he said in his office, which was bustling with aides in blue suits and camouflage gear. "I have no illusion that Russia will release its colonies."

Gen. Dudayev took control of the Chechen-Ingush Republic, a part of southern Russia, on Sept. 6 when his supporters occupied government buildings and ousted the Communist government for purportedly supporting the failed August coup.

His attempts to create a sovereign Chechen nation prompted Russian President Boris Yeltsin last Saturday to issue a three-day deadline for Gen. Dudayev to relinquish seized government buildings and disarm his National Guard and raucous gun-waving army of young volunteers. The deadline passed without incident.

Athens polytechnic ablaze after violent clashes

ATHENS (R) — The centre of Athens looked like a war zone Friday, with the city's polytechnic on fire and shops smashed and looted after the worst clashes in years between students and police.

Twenty people were injured in all-night skirmishes between police and students demanding more spending on education.

Witnesses said 500 riot police fired thousands of rounds of tear gas and fought hundreds of protesters who occupied the polytechnic building, hurled petrol bombs, threw rocks, and blocked streets with burning barricades and a bus.

The sky lit up in much of Athens as a fire raged for five hours in the polytechnic before it was brought under control.

The neo-classical building was badly damaged and officials said the blaze was deliberately set by some 100 anarchists inside. The school's dean asked police to clear the building.

Forty-nine people were arrested.

"We are afraid this is not the end. Many anarchists left the building during the night but they may come back and create more problems," a senior police officer said.

The clashes started Thursday after a march by some 1,500 students to the Education Ministry to demand more spending on education and the abolition of mid-term examinations reintroduced this year.

Police said that at the end of the demonstration the anarchists hurled stones and other objects at the ministry building and then went on to occupy the polytechnic.

The students have occupied more than 100 schools for the past two weeks and have threatened to take over all 1,600 high schools in Greece if the government does not meet their demands.

Student protests in January resulted in the resignation of Education Minister Vassilis Konstantopoulos when a teacher was killed during a similar march.

"The damage in the polytechnic is tremendous. The fire totally destroyed one building which was built 150 years ago and priceless books, paintings and furniture. Today is a day of mourning for Greek academic society," said Nikos Markatos, dean of the polytechnic.

Seoul officials warn pact with North is not easy

SEOUL (R) — South Korean Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik returned from North Korea Friday with a "breakthrough" agreement to discuss a non-aggression pact, but officials warned that a final accord may be hard to achieve.

They also reiterated Seoul's demand that the North submit its nuclear programme to international inspection, a demand Pyongyang has denounced as "a brazen and provocative act."

Smiling broadly in the crisp Korean autumn, Chung crossed the world's most heavily fortified frontier at the Panmunjom truce village to end a four-day visit to the North Korean capital Pyon-

gyang. Chung and his northern counterpart, Yon Hyong-Muk, agreed on working-level talks to draft an accord on reconciliation and non-aggression aimed at easing four decades of hostility on the Korean peninsula.

The two prime ministers also agreed to meet again in Seoul from Dec. 10 to 13, by which time a draft agreement could be ready for their consideration.

The agreement, the first progress in four rounds of talks between the two Koreas at premier level, was hailed by South Korean officials as a "breakthrough" for inter-Korean relations.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

ANC, other groups discuss united front

CAPE TOWN (AP) — Black leaders urged a meeting of more than 70 anti-apartheid groups Friday to set aside their differences and form a united front to face the government in talks on political reform. Hundreds of delegates applauded as Walter Sisulu, deputy president of the African National Congress, and Clarence Mawete, president of the Pan Africanist Congress, opened the Patriotic Front Conference. The meeting is aimed at uniting the widely disparate groups into a single force before negotiations begin with the government on a constitution ending white-minority rule. The government and ANC want those negotiations to begin this year.

White House agrees on rights bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush has agreed to accept a modified version of the Senate's long-disputed civil rights bill, his Chief of Staff John Sununu said. The leading Republican sponsor, Sen. John Danforth, said the latest revision also had been accepted by the top Democratic supporter of civil rights legislation, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. Senate Democrats scheduled a private caucus Friday morning to consider the latest Republican offer. It emerged from a long day of private negotiations, first among Senate Republicans and White House officials, and later including Sen. Kennedy. "We were finally able to get language accepted that eliminated the prospects of quotas. That's a very significant change," Mr. Sununu said. "I spoke with the president. It appears the proposal is acceptable and if there are no additional changes to what is there, the president is willing to sign that bill," he said.

Senate votes to probe Thomas leak

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate has voted 86-12 for a four-month special counsel's investigation into the leaks of sexual harassment allegations against Clarence Thomas. Thomas was approved by the Senate and sworn in Wednesday as a Supreme Court associate justice, but only after an extraordinary public hearing that thrashed out the charges in front of a spellbound national television audience. The resolution was sponsored by Democratic members and passed over Republican objections. It will include leaks that mostly harmed Democrats during the ethics committee's investigation into allegations that five senators — four Democrats and one Republican — improperly intervened with federal regulators on behalf of Charles Keating. He headed a failed savings and loan association. Mr. Bush earlier blasted Congress as a "privileged class of rulers" who shatter public confidence in government by holding themselves above the laws they pass for others.

U.N. peace force faces big problems in Cambodia

BANGKOK (R) — The international peacekeeping force to be sent to Cambodia faces enormous problems policing armies for whom war has become a way of life, Western military experts said Friday.

"It's certainly not a simple situation. In fact it's a pretty bloody serious situation. To send in too few troops would be ludicrous," said one military attaché.

Even after Cambodian leaders signed a peace accord in Paris Wednesday, heavy shelling in the northwest rattled windows in the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet.

"The trust between the four factions is not there," said Ok Serei Sopheap, an official of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front guerrillas.

"There's been war in Cambodia for over 20 years and we used to kill each other. It's going to take time."

Under the treaty United Nations peacekeeping troops forming part of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) are charged with disarming combatants and policing a ceasefire.

The size of the force is still to be decided.

A civilian and military vanguard — the U.N. advance mission in Cambodia — has begun arriving in the capital Phnom Penh. The soldiers will be led by French Brigadier-General Jean-Michel London.

The vanguard will include 50 military officers and 20 experts in mine clearing. Australia is sending 40-member communications unit and two of its officers are

already there. The full UNTAC is expected to begin operations in 1992, staying for 18 months at a cost topping \$1 billion.

It has not been decided who will UNTAC's military side. Australia has put in a bid for the chief military post as it will probably contribute more than 1,000 troops.

Estimates on UNTAC's size go as high as 20,000.

A Western defence expert in Bangkok said a force numbering tens of thousands would be prohibitively expensive.

"It would be a fortune — billions of dollars. You have to find housing for them or build it. Where are you going to put them, where are you going to find food, water and electricity?"

"I can imagine a military force of around 2,000," said a Western defence attaché in the Thai capital. "It's got to be at least that number to be effective."

Mr. Ok Serei Sopheap said at least 10,000 troops were needed.

The rival guerrilla armies are spread over hundreds of kilometres of barren countryside, where tropical diseases like malaria are endemic. Few roads exist and most to them are just pot-holed tracks. Many bridges have been blown up.

In years of jungle warfare, large guerrilla forces have become adept at hiding in thinly populated country. Intelligence on their whereabouts is rudimentary and no reliable estimates exist about the size of the rival armies.

In a multinational force co-

ordination will also be a problem. France, Cambodia's former colonial ruler, has pushed for French-led operation with French as the official UNTAC language.

An English-speaking diplomat dismissed the idea as ridiculous.

The Western attaché said officers from the advance mission would station themselves at the headquarters of the various armies to monitor the ceasefire.

Finding the base of an army as secretive as that of the Khmer Rouge might be difficult.

"The Khmer Rouge can just point to a spot on the map and take them to a place with a typewriter and a table and call it their headquarters," said Mr. Ok Serei Sopheap. "Even we don't know where the Khmer Rouge are right now."

He said it was sometimes impossible to distinguish between guerrilla units, government troops, and Vietnamese whom the guerrillas say are still fighting in the Phnom Penh army.

"As the French say, after dark all cats are grey."

He accused other factions of already stashing guns to circumvent U.N.-supervised disarmament and demobilisation.

Mr. Ok's own troops are said by foreign relief workers to show a penchant for banditry.

Gangs of renegades and deserters from all factions are operating along the border with Thailand. Aid workers fear the danger will grow as thousands of hungry combatants are demobilised with little chance of a job.

The peacekeepers will be at risk from the countless thousands of landmines strewn over the

countryside that have caused up to 20,000 Cambodian casualties in the past decade.

U.N. units might also get caught in the crossfire of renewed fighting, as has happened often elsewhere in the world.

Said one diplomat: "UNTAC are not there to get into fistfights. It's impossible to make peace without the willingness of the Cambodians."

Thai Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun said the agreement ending the war in neighbouring Cambodia opened up a new era but peace would not come easily.

"This is a good sign for the region. At least we have peace and cooperation on paper now," he was quoted by state radio as saying Thursday.

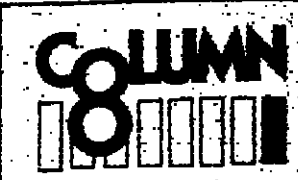
"This does not mean that peace will come easily. There might be some incidents that will not be in conformity with the agreement," he said.

He pledged Thai help in rebuilding the shattered country but also urged developed countries to take the lead.

Thailand has staunchly supported the Khmer Rouge-dominated guerrilla coalition for most of the 13-year civil war, which formally ended with the signing of a peace treaty in Paris Wednesday.

Thailand has allowed the guerrillas sanctuary on its soil and acted as a conduit for arms.

In recent years it has sought a role as peace-maker under a policy which former Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan called "battlegrounds to marketplaces."



Imelda getting her shoes back — all 1,700 pairs

MANILA (AP) — The government of President Corason Aquino has decided to return Imelda Marcos's world-famous shoe collection, a major attraction of the Malacanang Presidential Palace Museum. Presidential executive secretary Franklin Drilon said Thursday that Mrs. Marcos's 1,700 pairs of shoes and other "personal effects" such as perfume and underwear will be given back to her when she returns from exile next month. "We will give back all her personal effects," Mr. Drilon said. "Even if she doesn't claim them, we will give them back to her." Press Undersecretary Horacio Fardes earlier said Mrs. Marcos had to first prove she owned them. The shoes, including a pair with blinding disco lights, plus a bullet-proof bra and a basement full of gowns, are the main attractions of a tour of Malacanang. The palace was abandoned by the late President Ferdinand Marcos and his family when he was toppled in a popular revolt.

Taiwan criminals using pigeons to collect ransom

TAIPEI (R) — Car thieves in Taiwan have found an ingenious way to evade police while collecting ransoms from owners for the return of their vehicles — bombing pigeons. They leave a ransom note and a pigeon, promising to return the car if the bird is dispatched with cash in a can tied to its body, police said Wednesday. "Once we tried to catch the thieves by using telescopes to follow the pigeon. But it flew too high and too fast and we lost sight of it," Chen Chiao-Ching, head of the central city of Changwa's Criminal Affairs Department, said by telephone. Breeding pigeons is a popular pastime in Taiwan, where the birds are kept as pets and flown in races.

Woman gives birth to 4th set of triplets

YAOUNDE (R) — A woman in the central African country of Cameroon has given birth to her fourth set of triplets, the official daily Cameroon Tribune said Tuesday. It said 30-year-old Falmata Abba, from the poor northern town of Yagoua, had borne 14 children in all including one pair of twins since she was married at the age of 10. One child died but the rest were all well, the paper added.

Tibet plans highest, coldest beauty pageant

HONG KONG (E) — Goosie-pimples and vertigo will be just some of the hazards facing contestants when the Himalayan region of Tibet holds its first beauty pageant this winter. Perhaps the highest and coldest of its kind in the world, the beauty contest has the go-ahead from the Chinese authorities and will be held in Lhasa on Dec. 7, Ernesto Barba, Italian manager of the Holiday Inn Hotel that will host the event, said Wednesday. "It will be a big extravaganza," said Mr. Barba, speaking by telephone from Lhasa, the regional capital. Several attempts by Chinese cities, including Shanghai, to boost their profile by holding beauty contests have foundered in recent years because of political ill winds blowing from Communist hardliners. Tibet has its own special problems, rocked in the past few years by pro-independence demonstrations and the brutal suppression by police. Foreign tourism has begun to revive only this year after 14 months of martial law was lifted in May 1990.

Indonesians may enter beauty shows

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian women will be allowed to enter international beauty contests again after a 20-year-old ban and may even wear bikinis if they stay in a swimming pool. News papers in the country with the world's largest Muslim population front-paged on Wednesday President Suharto's wife Tien meeting members of the Beauty Queen Foundation to discuss a representative for the 1993 Miss Universe pageant. Foundation head Dewi Mofit said it would erase the image of Indonesian women being seen only as mental workers. An observer only will be sent to the next Miss Universe contest in Bangkok, in 1992.